ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Receipts and Expenditures

of the

TOWN OF

MILFORD

For the

YEAR : ENDING : FEBRUARY,

1880.

MILFORD TOWN LIBRARY

MILFORD, MASS.
Cook and Sons, Steam Job Printers,
Journal Office, 1880.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Boston Public Library

https://archive.org/details/annualreportofto1880milf

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF MILFORD,

CONTAINING REPORTS OF

THE TREASURER, THE SELECTMEN, OVERSEERS OF THE POOR, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, TRUSTEES OF VERNON GROVE CEMETERY, TOWN CLERK, ENGINEERS, AND TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN LIBRARY,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 13, 1880.

MILFORD, MASS.
Cook and Sons, Steam Job Printers,
Journal Office, *1880.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 14, 1880.

—‡—

Amount in hands of Treasurer, Feb. 13, 1879.....	$ 6,102 21
Received of J D Hunt, tax for 1877.....	2,778 52
" J H Wood, " 1878.....	3,087 61
" " " 1879.....	69,298 06
Borrowed of Home National Bank.....	3,000 00
" Milford "	11,000 00
" Mrs A R Tilden.....	2,000 00
Received of	
Edward A Brown, Co. Treas., rent of police court room	300 00
" " dog tax.....	440 70
Chas Endicott, State Treas. bank tax.....	976 35
" " state aid.....	3,871 50
" " indigent soldiers.....	1,378 24
" " corporation tax.....	2,190 23
" " armory rent.....	300 00
" " school fund.....	311 74
Kidder, Peabody & Co., interest on Hopk'n R R bonds	489 00
B H Montague, rent of lockup.....	202 00
" " hall.....	286 20
C O Woodbury, for pigs sold.....	24 50
A Hixon, auctioneer's license.....	2 00
A L Hixon, " "	2 00
J F Morris, " "	2 00
Thos Kelley, billiard "	10 00
Alfred Goucher, " "	10 00
B F Cheney, " "	20 00
W A Pond, " "	20 00

John P Daniels,	for work		7 50
Ann Powers,	"		4 00
J M Woods,	"		43 89
Washington Eng. Co.,	"		8 00
Milford Fire Dep't,	"		331 02
Mrs Hannon,	"		8 00
Matthew Callanan,	for gravel		7 20
Charles Thayer,	"		50
A C Rounds,	"		17 00
George Beattey,	"		12 00
John Gillon,	for road scrapings		1 27
Patrick Lynch,	"		2 50
Edwin B Taft,	"		3 00
S Mathewson,	"		2 75
Asa Pond,	"		1 00
Mr Lane,	for stone		2 00
Matthew Toohey,	"		2 00
Geo W Johnson,	"		75
Michael Higgiston,	"		1 50
Patrick Kelley,	"		1 50
Edward McGowan,	"		1 50
E A & L A Cook,	for water		20 00
Home National Bank,	rebatement of interest		11 26
Henry L Patrick,	lamp post		9 50
E A & L A Cook,	"		17 00
Lewis Phipps,	wood sold		3 25
Hopedale Stable			2 00
James Murray,	lamp dome		1 50
Walter Carpenter,	lamp globe		2 00
J H Wood,	interest on county tax		15 00
Catharine McDermott,	Central street	sidewalk	20 25
Sawyer & Cushing,	"	"	14 00
Boston & Albany R R Co.,	"	"	40 00
John P Daniels,	"	"	15 25
S P Carpenter,	"	"	9 00
Richard Holland,	"	"	10 50
James Bergin,	"	"	14 00

Mrs Ann Powers,	Central street	sidewalk	6 00
G N Hayward,	Main street	"	71 28
A C Fay,	"	"	17 71
Patrick Gillon,	"	"	34 18
Methodist Church,	Exchange street	"	16 50
R E Foster,	Pearl street	"	20 41
Mr Wakefield,	"	"	7 02
O Underwood,	"	"	58 17
D B Jenks,	"	"	33 49
I Farnum,	"	"	16 33
A A Coburn,	"	"	38 31
R C Hill,	"	"	24 37
Nelson Parkhurst,	"	"	33 38
Patrick Gillon,	liquor license		100 00
"	"		200 00
Patrick Flannigan,	"		100 00
Thomas Quirk,	"		100 00
James Bradley,	"		100 00
G W Bailey,	"		100 00
Alfred Goucher,	"		100 00
J F Stratton & Co.,	"		300 00
Wm Sheehan,	"		100 00
Thos Kelley,	"		100 00
E J Gallagher,	"		100 00
John McGrath,	"		100 00
Bryan Manion,	"		100 00
John Cronan,	"		100 00
Thos Dolan,	"		50 00
J M Pearson,	"		100 00
Pond & Howard,	"		100 00
C J Gilmore,	"		100 00
C H Gillon,	"		100 00
Thomas Cauley,	"		100 00
Owen Keefe,	"		100 00
Bridget Hilferty,	"		100 00
David Nugent,	"		100 00
Anthony Doherty,	"		100 00

Patrick Tiernan, liquor license		100 00
Margaret Sheehan, "		100 00
H C Hart & Co., "		100 00
Roland Burke, "		100 00
Mrs Thomas Donavan, "		100 00
Kate Fitzgerald, "		100 00
Thomas Dolan, bottler's license		50 00
J Allen Rice, liquor license		50 00
A H Sweet, "		50 00
H E Morgan, "		50 00
W M Parker, "		50 00
L R Hazard, "		200 00
Elizabeth Ward, "		100 00
Charles Rivers, "		100 00
T B Bailey, "		50 00
J & F Woods, "		100 00
Lyman Cheney, "		100 00
Mary Kelley, "		100 00
John Rogers, "		100 00
Michael McKeague, "		100 00
Ann McArdle, "		100 00
David Quinn, "		100 00
Terrenca Foster, "		100 00
Mary Butler, "		100 00
Patrick Wallace, "		100 00
		$114,093 40
Paid on Selectmen's orders		104,663 77
Amount in hands of Treasurer, Feb. 14, 1880		$9,429 63

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ETHAN C. CLAFLIN, Treasurer.

COLLECTORS' REPORT.

J. D. HUNT, Collector for 1875.

Dr.

Balance uncollected in his hands, Feb. 11, 1879		$227 87
Cr.		
Abatements	$184 17	
Balance uncollected, Feb. 10, 1880	43 70	
		$227 87

J. D. Hunt, Collector for 1876.

Dr.

Balance uncollected in his hands, Feb. 11, 1879		$364 06
Received interest		19 36
		$383 42
Cr.		
Abatements	$318 15	
Balance uncollected, Feb. 10, 1880	65 27	
		$383 42

J. D. Hunt, Collector for 1877.

Dr.

Balance uncollected in his hands, Feb. 11, 1879		$4169 11
Received interest		234 98
		$4404 09
Cr.		
By cash paid Treasurer	$2778 52	
Abatements	1231 07	
Balance uncollected, Feb. 10, 1880	394 50	
		$4404 09

JOSEPH H. WOOD, Collector for 1878.

Dr.

Balance of uncollected taxes, Feb. 12, 1879		$3966 53
Interest received		224 05
		$4190 58

Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer	$3087 61	
Abatements	1102 97	
		$4190 58

JOSEPH H. WOOD, Collector for 1879.

Dr.

Taxes committed in 1879		$81,059 38
Reassessments		892 48
		$81,951 86

Cr.

By cash paid Treasurer	$69,298 06	
" " County Treasurer	4,664 36	
Discount	3,617 87	
Abatements	1,259 04	
Balance uncollected Feb. 7, 1880	3,112 53	
		$81,951 86
Paid E C Claflin discount for early payment of County tax		$15 00

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

TOWN INCIDENTALS.

Paid	
L Cheney, distributing circulars and posting bills	$ 2 50
J D Willis, horse bought in 1878	225 00
E A Aldrich, injuries from boys coasting on So. Bow street	10 00
Wm H Humphrey, returning deaths	1 00
D Healy, burying dog	1 50
Thomas Tracy, burying cat	1 00
Lucy L Patrick, abatement of taxes	1 32
David Kirby, " "	1 27
Patrick M Higgins, " "	85
Anna D Lawrence, " "	3 40
Martin Broderick, constable at town meeting	2 00
Thomas Coyne, " " "	2 00
James C Coffee, posting bills	1 50
John O'Brien, night watch	60 00
G G Parker, insurance	62 13
L Fairbanks, returning 79 deaths	19 75
L Fairbanks, removing and burying remains from the School Street cemetery	142 45
State Reform School	333 50
Cook & Sons for printing and advertising as follows:	
Publishing notice for Sealer of Weights	10 00
Coasting bills	3 00
1500 town reports for 1878	150 00
Publishing town warrant two weeks	28 00
Posters, registration law	1 50
Advertising for proposals for Supt. of highways 1879	2 00
Publishing town warrant two weeks	28 00

H A Bartlett, curbstone	8 00
James Murray, damage to carriage	2 50
John Usher, use of water	5 00
W C Spary, killing five crows	25
W R Warren, blank licenses and bonds	9 48
South Boston Iron Company, castings for crusher	58 05
S P Goodrich, money refunded on sidewalk by town vote	13 16
Thomas Hayes, services in case of Levi Brown	2 50
M W Edwards, " " "	9 00
H E Morgan, supplies for lock-up	3 50
S W Pierce, repair of lock-up	7 00
W H Hooker, " "	4 97
Dexter Claflin, use of water	5 00
J C Coffey, posting bills	1 00
Patrick McGarry, services as Assessor	195 00
A J Sumner, " "	228 00
Benj. Ward, " "	157 00
A J Sumner, " expense and postage	32 25
M A Blunt, printing for assessors	1 75
James Powers, services July 4	2 00
" " killing and burying three dogs	4 50
S W Pierce " " one dog	1 50
Bartlett & Ellis, lamp post	7 50
" " supplies for town house and lock-up	9 29
John Coffey, killing two dogs	3 00
M W Edwards, killing and burying fifteen dogs	22 50
C A Sumner, printing orders for 1878	2 50
Bartlett & Ellis, stove pipe and supplies at town house	20 32
For changing doors of schoolhouses to swing out; also of Town House, 1879:	
O Whitney & Son	55 00
Lewis Fales, services and hardware	16 30
Field & Crosby, lumber	5 97
George H Carr, concrete sidewalk repairing	3 00
" " " concreting from Dr. Fay's to Fayette street	244 12
George H Carr, concreting crossing on Central street	58 50

A H Adams, gravel for highways used in 1877	20 00
Henry A Davis, State Inspector of Weights and Measures	8 00
Dr J A Fay, services on Board of Health for 1878	15 00
Dr W J Clarke, " " " " " "	15 00
" " " to Reagan family	2 00
" " " to Fahey family	3 00
" " " in case of Richard Day	2 50
Dr J A Fay, certificate of insanity of Richard Day	2 50
O D Holmes, town warrant and posting	11 00
" " " " " "	10 00
" " " " " "	10 00
A Bragg, gravel for highways from 1873 to 1879	91 39
Changing outside door of Town House, 1878:	
Lewis Fales, services	7 00
Wm H Hooker	40 00
L B Chapman	2 30
A Thwing, repairing town clock	11 45
Lewis Fales, hardware	6 00
Field & Crosby, coal for Town House	94 50
James Bergin, repairing settees	23 07
Cook & Withington, painting	17 61
Eldredge & Beattey, painting	8 34
Robert Sprague, repairing roads	2 00
J D Hunt, collecting $2600 at ¾ of 1 per cent. for 1874	18 80
" " paying County tax	4 00
A Thwing, repairing town clock	3 00
W F Reynolds, framing record of money left for cemetery lots	1 25
Elias Whitney, sealer of weights and measures	25 00
James R Davis, services	6 00
George C Temple, repairs on Town House	5 62
J H Wood, collecting taxes for 1878	100 00
" " 1879	280 00
S W Hayward, services as special police	300 00
Cook & Sons, blanks for Town Clerk	6 50
" " publishing Board of Health notice 4 mo's	40 00

Cook & Sons, 650 dog licenses	7 50
" " 150 blanks, owners permission for license	3 00
" " advertisement, license application	1 50
" " six large cards	1 50
" " publishing Sealers of Weights notice	10 00
" " bills	1 25
" " Hickey reward	1 50
" " publishing State Aid notice	2 00
" " Proposal, sewer	4 50
" " 50 posters, dogs	2 00
" " Warrant, 2 weeks	21 00
Fuller Iron Works, lamp posts	48 00
John S Mead, expenses to Boston, looking up State aid	5 60
D T Aldrich, repairs of Town House	3 75
S C Sumner, revising check list	14 25
D B Jenks, supplies	2 82
Geo W Stacy, printing for Assessors	17 19
S W Hayward, balance of sidewalk account. This was a balance he had against the town for damages allowed on sidewalk built in front of his Main street building in 1876. The referee allowed for damage $72. Assessment, $63,69. Balance paid him	8 31
Lewis Fales, services as town clerk	85 00
" " returning births, marriages and deaths	113 60
" " paper and postage	3 16
E C Claflin, abatement per order of assessors	55 26
B H Montague, supplies for lock-up	4 93
" " services as janitor	204 17
Charles Tucker, charcoal	6 00
B H Montague, services as lock-up keeper	100 00
" " supplies for "	4 56
Wm H Humphrey, returning four deaths	1 00
M Callanan, supplies for town house	7 03
" " lock-up	48 51
J D Hunt, collecting taxes for 1875	72 36
" " " 1876	52 87
" " " 1877	78 75

E C Claflin, services as treasurer	250 00
" " traveling expenses and postage	18 75
J B Bancroft, services as Selectman and on Board of Health	325 00
M Callanan, ditto	300 00
D J Cronan, ditto	250 00
	$5622 53
Appropriation	$5000 00
Exceeded	622 53
	$5622 53

This appropriation was $1500 less than for a number of years past.

HIGHWAYS.

Paid

A. Stevens	$131 94
D. B. Jenks, supplies	15 99
Lysander Grow	15 05
C J Thompson, surveying	22 50
Milford Gas Co., pipe	7 90
American Spiced Food Co	35 00
Wm Fitzgerald, repairs	2 54
Aaron Claflin, breaking roads	8 10
Hopedale Stable, breaking roads	1 65
Daniel Murphy, removing stone, Purchase road	50
H T Shattuck, painting four carts in 1878	16 00
D B Rockwood, repairs	48 02
Lewis Phipps, labor	75 00
" hammer	1 50
" paying help	318 00
T C Eastman, grain	411 88
Patrick Conniff, labor	5 50
E J Prentice, grain	46 72
Otis Nelson, gravel for 1878	7 18
C O Woodbury, labor	641 63
Ira Ide, repairs and rent of barn	193 53
O G Taft, breaking roads	1 00

L M Bullard, 2 bars, 3 drills	3 00
Hopedale Machine Co	1 05
" waste for crusher	1 36
Hopedale Furnace Co., castings for crusher	5 92
J S Mead, services to Feb. 1, 1880	500 00
" 1 stone drag	5 00
" expense to Brighton	1 60
" 57 lbs. tallow, at 8c	4 56
" team, mowing and raking park	10 00
James T Nutter, hay	71 87
C F Crosby	11 40
Henry Willard, repairs of crusher	94 12
John Casey, hay	16 40
C A Ambler, hay	8 70
Field & Crosby, coal for crusher	70 44
" use of teams	15 00
" straw	10 09
W L Billings, doctoring horse	10 00
J S Mead, paid labor	6278 62
Bartlett & Ellis, supplies	175 05
H S Cushman, repairs	41 25
John Madden, salt	1 70
C H Metcalf, carrots	24 76
J Cuddihy, labor	3 00
" stone for curbing	5 00
E A & L A Cook, cement	8 50
R A Cleveland, labor	3 30
F B Tamwell, hay	39 68
David Nelson, labor	1 50
T B Bailey, supplies	87
	$9430 87

Cr. — Labor and Teams.

Main street bridge	$257 05
Leonard street	426 76
Parkhurst street	309 80
Central street sidewalk	798 30
Cook street	269 66
Goodrich court	39 28
Hayward street reservoir	331 02
School department	52 63
Water works for fire department	347 07
Main street sewer	419 21
Congress street reservoir	43 89
	$3294 67

Actual cost of labor on highways	$6136 20
Appropriation	6000 00
Exceeded	$136 20

The appropriation for this year has been two thousand dollars less than for a number of years past. We have built three streets which were accepted by the town, Nov. 1876 (Reade, Middleton and Dominick), and which were not passable, at a cost of about $300.

WATER WORKS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid

B F Dyer, castings	$ 4 13
S W Pierce, labor	5 50
James Bergin	46
Hopedale Machine Co., labor	2 80
Owen O'Keefe, damage (Pond street)	42 00
Bartlett & Ellis	974 18
J M Woods, services	23 20
B Masterson, repairing	4 31
A Thwing, surveying	6 00
Wm Fitzgerald, repairing	50
Field & Crosby, supplies	26 75
I N Davis, supplies and expenses	18 51
R C Hussey, supplies	1 30
Milford Gas Co., labor (I. N. Davis)	1460 71
Highway Department, labor and teams	347 07
Unexpended appropriation	39 29
Appropriation, $1500.	$1500 00

PAYMENT OF TOWN DEBT.

Paid Worcester County Savings Bank		$5000 00
Appropriation	$2000	
Exceeded appropriation	3000	
		$5000 00

MONEY BORROWED AND PAID.

Mrs Anna R Tilden	$2000 00
Home National Bank	3000 00
Milford National Bank	11000 00
	$16,000 00

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid			
Elias Whitney, for support of poor			$9620 16
John Madden, services		1878	100 00
David Nelson,	"	1878	90 00
Elias Whitney,	"	1879	325 00
John Madden,	"	1879	90 00
Chester L Clark,	"	1879	90 00
			$10,315 16
Appropriation		$10,000 00	
Exceeded appropriation		315 16	

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Pay of members	$3600 00

Appropriation, $3600.

INCIDENTALS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid H C Skinner	$900 00
Unexpended appropriation	300 00
	$1200 00

Appropriation, $1200.

REPAIRS OF ENGINE HOUSES AND RESERVOIRS.

Paid H C Skinner	$100 00
Highways	43 89
	$143 89
Unexpended appropriation	56 11
	$200 00

Appropriation, $200.

NEW HOSE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid Julius M Woods	$493 50
Unexpended appropriation	6 50
	$500 00

Appropriation, $500.

GAS AND CARE OF STREET LAMPS.

Paid Milford Gas Light Company, street lamps		$1451 85
Supplies for street lamps		261 77
Gas for Lockup		73 72
Gas for Police Court		2 66
Gas for Town Hall		160 55
Gas for Town House (east room)		39 67
Hopedale Machine Co., for lighting and care		60 00
		$2050 22
Appropriation	$2000 00	
Exceeded	50 22	
		$2050 22

STATE AID.

Cash paid	$4145 00
Military aid	796 00
	$4941 00

HAYWARD STREET RESERVOIR.

Paid Julius M Woods for labor		$37 85
Highways		331 02
		$368 87
Unexpended appropriation		131 13
		$500 00

Appropriation, $500.

TEACHING SCHOOL.

Paid for teaching school		$15,984 50
Unexpended appropriation		515 50
		$16,500 00

Appropriation, $16,500.

CARE OF SCHOOLS.

Paid for care of schools		958 01
Unexpended appropriation		41 99
		$1000 00

Appropriation, $1000.

REPAIRS OF SCHOOL HOUSES.

Paid for repairs of school houses		952 45
Highways, carting gravel		52 63
		$1005 08
Appropriation	$1000 00	
Exceeded	5 08	
		$1005 08

SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS.

Paid for salaries of Superintendents		$1266 66
Appropriation	$1200 00	
Exceeded appropriation	66 66	
		$1266 66

FUEL FOR SCHOOLS.

Paid for fuel for schools		$973 29
Unexpended appropriation		26 71
		$1000 00

Appropriation, $1000.

SCHOOL INCIDENTALS.

Paid for school incidentals		$1197 20
Appropriation	$750 00	
Exceeded	447 20	
		$1197 20

EVENING SCHOOL.

Paid for expenses of evening school		$443 99
Unexpended appropriation		56 01
		$500 00

Appropriation, $500.

TOWN HISTORY.

Paid Adin Ballou		$152 02
Lewis Fales, 2 days' labor		6 00
Unexpended appropriation		41 98
		$200 00

Appropriation, $200.

MAIN STREET BRIDGE.

Paid John Cuddihy, for covering stones		$26 04
H A Bartlett		22 50
Field & Crosby, lumber		5 07
Hopedale Machine Co., for iron		10 84
Cook & Withington, painting rails		4 16
Highway Department, labor and teams		257 05
		$325 66
Appropriation	$150 00	
Exceeded	175 66	
		$325 66

CENTRAL STREET SIDEWALK.

Paid		
Chester Walker, timber for bridge		$ 4 00
Hopedale Machine Co., iron for posts		15 37
Field & Crosby, lumber		24 25
John Cuddihy, curbing		226 01
Adin Ball, labor		24 75
Cook & Withington, painting rails		9 58
Highway Department, labor and teams		798 30
		$1102 26

ASSESSMENTS.

Sawyer & Cushing,	paid	$14 00	
James Bergin,	paid	14 00	
Seth P Carpenter,	paid	9 00	
John P Daniels,	paid	15 25	
Catharine McDermottroe,	paid	20 25	
Patrick Doyle,	paid	10 50	
James Feeling,	due	12 50	
Ann Powers,	paid $6	18 00	
Boston & Albany R R Co.	paid	40 00	
		$153 50	
Exceeded appropriation		448 76	
Appropriation		500 00	$1102 26

GOODRICH COURT.

Paid Highway Department, labor and teams	$39 28
Unexpended appropriation	10 72
	$50 00

Appropriation, $50.

PARKHURST STREET.

Paid James Murray, gravel	$ 2 12
Highway Department, labor and teams	307 68
Unexpended appropriation	190 20
Appropriation, $500.	$500 00

COOK STREET.

Paid John Cuddihy, covering stone for bridge	$ 8 50
Highway Department, labor and teams	269 66
	$278 16

LEONARD STREET.

Paid Izanna Chapin for gravel	$35 92
Highway Department, labor and teams	426 76
	$462 68
Unexpended appropriation	37 32
	$500 00

Appropriation, $500.

TOWN PARK.

Paid Henry E Fales, trees and express	$92 75
N W Weed, lumber and labor	7 00
	$99 75
Unexpended appropriation	25
	$100 00

Appropriation, $100.

CONCRETE SIDEWALK FROM DR. A. C. FAY'S, MAIN STREET, TO FAYETTE STREET.

Paid for concreting			$244 12

ASSESSMENTS.

Dr A C Fay,	paid	$17 70	
P Gillon,	paid	34 16	
Hayward House,	paid	12 58	
Post Office block,	paid	58 71	
Methodist Society,	paid	16 50	
		$139 65	
Cost more than assessed		104 47	$244 12

MAIN STREET SEWER.

D L Wilkinson, surveying and plan	$	69 50
Boston Herald, advertising		28 50
Providence Journal, "		6 37
Marcellus Day & Co., pipe		1 72
Field & Crosby, lumber to protect gas pipe		4 25
Milford Gas Light Co., supplies and repairs		135 23
Lewis Fales, services and expenses		250 06
John Kenney, damages to garden		4 00
Expenses outside of J H Edward's contract		499 63
J H Edwards, contractor, cash paid him to date		3100 00
Total cost as far as completed		$3599 63
Appropriation		2500 00
Exceeded appropriation		$1099 63

STATEMENT OF J. H. EDWARDS' ACCOUNT.

To cash and sundries:

James H Edwards to J Phelan	$2100 00
" "	400 00
" "	600 00
Wm. Sheehan, drills	28 24
" lumber and cement	44 85
Cook & Withington, setting glass at Town House	13 00
D B Jenks, supplies	105 14
A Stevens, sharpening drills	12 18
Lewis Fales, manhole covers	12 32
M Callanan, supplies	3 43
John Clark, brick	30 00
Highway department for labor	419 21
Due John Clark, for brick	3 60
	$3771 97
By amount of work done by the contractor, as estimated by Lewis Fales, superintendent	3100 00
Due from J H Edwards to balance	$771 97

TOWN LIBRARY.

Paid J. Allen Rice, treasurer, one-half of dog tax		$248 51
" " " "		800 00
		$1048.51
Appropriation	$800 00	
One-half of dog tax	248 51	
		$1048 51

INTEREST ON TOWN DEBT.

Paid	
Milford Savings Bank	$ 625 00
" on bonds	1000 00
"	625 00
" on bonds	1000 00
Milford National Bank	76 88
"	34 88
"	23 62
Boston Five Cent Savings Bank	825 00
Home National Bank	46 13
Charles Endicott, State Treasurer	1050 00
Worcester County Savings Bank	300 00
" "	375 00
" "	68 05
Sarah F Pierce	36 00
W I Bradbury, notes of Dyer, Albee and Holbrook	21 00
Elisha Chapin	25 00
Hide and Leather National Bank	1500 00
" "	825 00
Anna R Tilden	24 63
John S Chapin	50 00
Silas A Hill	25 00
Worcester County Savings Bank	250 00
Charles Endicott, State Treasurer	1050 00
Milford Fire Insurance Co	90 00
Hide and Leather National Bank	1500 00
	$11,446 19
Unexpended appropriation	53 81
Appropriation, $11,500.	$11,500 00

PAID S. C. SUMNER,

For checking list at March meeting, 1879	$5 00

Appropriation, $5.

DECORATION DAY.

Paid B H Montague	$100 00

Appropriation, $100.

Co. M, 6TH REG'T M. V. M.

Paid

T E Morse, painting hall	$ 28 48
Capt H J Bailey, preparing grounds for practice	25 00
H C Scott, rent of hall	150 00
Field & Crosby, coal	6 75
Gas, Feb. 1879 to Jan. 1880, inclusive	76 65
J A Taft, difference in rent	100 00
	$386 88

STATE TAX.

Paid Charles Endicott, Treasurer	$1430 00
" " Bank tax	$2726 53

LIQUOR LICENSES.

Paid Charles Endicott, State Treasurer, one-fourth	$1225 00

MRS. LAVINA STEVENS.

Taxes refunded	$58 10

Appropriation, $58.10.

PERSONS WHO HAVE RECEIVED MILITARY AID

Under Chapter 252, *Acts of* 1879, *and amount paid to each, beginning June* 1*st. The Town is liable for one-half of this amount.*

Timothy Finton	$ 48 00
Martin Keenan	42 00
Thomas Hickey	58 00
Michael Conniff	76 00

Patrick Hanagan	42 00
Michael Larkin	42 00
Michael Ryan	42 00
Patrick Huban	42 00
Hugh Connolly	42 00
Richard H D Beattey	42 00
Murty Reynolds	30 00
Thomas Tracy	24 00
Elijah Rockwood	24 00
Patrick Madden	28 00
Daniel Dugan (Waltham)	24 00
John H. Mitchell	28 00
Martin Jenkins	18 00
John Moore (Purchase)	18 00
Patrick Kelly	18 00
John Roach	18 00
Wm F Reynolds	24 00
Patrick O'Connor	18 00
James Donahoe	18 00
Patrick Bradley	6 00
Timothy McCormick	12 00
Patrick Boyle (Worcester)	6 00
John Griffin	6 00
	$796 00

ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Five hundred shares in Milford & Woonsocket R R	$50000 00
Seventy-five shares in Hopkinton R R	7500 00
Bonds of Hopkinton R R	7500 00
J D Hunt, Taxes for 1875	43 70
" " " " 1876	65 27
" " " " 1877	394 50
J H Wood, Taxes for 1879	3112 53
Land and gravel pit on Greene street	150 00
B D Godfrey, labor and teams	7 00

Mr Estabrook, concrete walk assessment	21 93
F O Mason, " " "	52 26
Mary F Griffin, " " "	16 76
Mrs. Hannon, assessment on sewer	25 00
Zimri Thurber, sidewalk assessment	16 28
Luther P Jones, " "	20 56
Mrs. Leland, " "	37 20
Joseph Williams, " "	24 90
Charles Williams, " "	16 21
Due from State—State aid	4145 00
Due from State—Military aid	398 00
Cash in hands of Treasurer, Feb 13, 1880	9429 63
	$82,976 73

TOWN DEBT.

Milford Savings Bank notes	$25,000 00
" " town bonds	40,000 00
National Hide and Leather Bank, railroad bonds	50,000 00
Boston Five Cent Savings Bank, town bonds	30,000 00
Worcester County Institution for Savings	10,000 00
Park notes	5000 00
Elisha Chapin, note	500 00
John S Chapin, "	1000 00
Milford Fire Insurance Company, note	1500 00
Sarah F Pierce, note	600 00
State Treasurer's note	30,000 00
Silas A Hill, note	500 00
Trustees of Hopedale cemetery, note	100 00
" " Vernon Grove cemetery, note	350 00
	$194,550 00

Money left by the following named persons for care of burial lots:

Sarah M Whipple	$100 00
Mrs Theron Holbrook	100 00
Mrs Obadiah Albee	100 00
W B Dyer	150 00

The above names and sums have been put in a frame and hung up in the Selectmen's Room, as voted by the Town, April 3, 1879.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Town Incidentals	$5000 00
Teaching schools	16500 00
Care of "	1000 00
Repairs of school houses	1000 00
Superintendent of schools	1200 00
Fuel for schools	1000 00
School incidentals	750 00
Evening school	500 00
Fire Department pay of members	3600 00
Repairs of Engine Houses and Reservoirs	200 00
Incidentals Fire Department	1200 00
New hose " "	500 00
Hayward street reservoir	500 00
Gas and care of street lamps	2000 00
Water works, Fire Department	1500 00
Payment of Town debt	2000 00
Support of poor	10000 00
Interest on town debt	11500 00
Checking list March meeting, 1879	5 00
Decoration day	100 00
Mrs Lavina Stevens	58 10
Town history	200 00
Parkhurst street	500 00
Goodrich court	50 00
Central street sidewalk	500 00
Main street bridge	150 00
Leonard street	500 00
Town Park	100 00
Town Library	800 00
Highways	6000 00
Main street sewer	2500 00
	$71,413 10

RECAPITULATION OF ORDERS DRAWN.

Town incidentals	$5622 53
Teaching schools	15984 50
Care of schools	958 01
Repairs of school houses	952 45
Superintendents of schools	1266 66
Fuel for schools	973 29
School incidentals	1197 20
Evening school	443 99
Fire Department, pay of members	3600 00
Repairs of Engine Houses and Reservoirs	100 00
Incidentals for Fire Department	900 00
New hose for " "	493 50
Hayward street reservoir	368 87
Gas for lockup	73 72
" police court	2 66
" street lamps	1451 85
" Town Hall	160 55
" Town House, east room	39 67
Supplies for street lamps	261 77
Hopedale Machine Company, lighting and care	60 00
Water works, for Fire Department	1113 64
State Aid	4941 00
Town Debt	5000 00
Money borrowed and paid	16000 00
Support of poor	10315 16
Interest on town debt	11446 19
Checking list March meeting, 1879	5 00
Decoration day	100 00
Armory	386 88
State annual tax	1430 00
National Bank tax	2726 53
One-fourth liquor licenses	1225 00
Lavina Stevens' taxes refunded	58 10
Town History	158 02
Parkhurst Street	2 12

Central street sidewalk	303 96
Cook street	8 50
Main street bridge	68 61
Leonard street	35 92
Town Park	99 75
Town library	1048 51
Town highways	9430 87
Main street sewer	3848 79
	$104,663 77

In closing this report, we would say the condition of the town financially is not, in our judgment, such as to warrant the intimations of certain of our tax payers that we are bankrupt; for although the debt of the town is large, still at a low valuation there is no question but what the assets will exceed the liabilities by several thousand dollars.

During the past year, bills have been approved and paid each month, which we think has proved a benefit and will result in carrying over to the new year but comparatively a few unpaid accounts.

All town officers have been paid in full, so that the usual claims for services in a past year will not be carried to the new, and all claims of whatever nature, some extending back to 1875, as far as we could find them, have been fully adjusted. The taxes have been promptly collected, and the tax payers have reason to congratulate themselves that not a tax for 1878 now remains unpaid.

All of which is respectfully submitted, February 13, 1880.

J. B. BANCROFT,
MATTHEW P. CALLANAN.
D. J. CRONAN,
Selectmen of Milford.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

The Overseers of the Poor respectfully submit the following report for the year ending Feb. 1, 1880.

EXPENSE OF FARM, $4109.01.

Raisins	$1 12
Cheese	5 15
Sperm oil	1 03
Lemons	2 76
Sugar	160 86
Ginger	6 40
Thread and Wax	10
Beans	9 60
Oat meal	1 00
Nutmegs	2 90
Salaratus	1 40
Salt	15 35
Matches	7 80
Flour	199 75
Kerosene oil	10 10
Starch	75
Molasses	72 03
Tobacco	57 54
Snuff	13 69
Salt fish	34 32
Stove polish and brush	1 56
Maple syrup	2 00
Hops, 64c; cream tartar, 50c	1 14
Rye Meal	2 40
Tubs, $3.70; barrels, $1.20	4 90
Tea	53 88
Salsoda, 30c; baskets, 85c	1 15
Rope	1 85
Meal	2 50
Garden seeds	37
Hoes $2.28; brooms $5.25	7 53
Soap	10 00
Pepper, $1.70; Bristol Brick, 10c	1 80
Tacks	30
Scythes	6 00
Potash	15 50
Whetstones, 80c; brush, 30c	1 10

Yeast, $2.26; cassia, 85c	3 11
Coffee, $2.60; fly paper, 80c	3 40
Mops, 61c; slate pencils, 5c	66
Grass seed	12 60
Lampwicks, 16c; cloves, 60c; pimento, 30c; chimneys, 20c	1 26
Rice, mustard, clothes pins, apples and medicine	13 88
Sweet potatoes	1 05
Meat	495 83
Seven shoats	30 00
Grain	679 75
Coal	115 99
Furniture, crockery, etc	36 47
Concord wagon	30 00
Ox wagon	52 05
Burial	11 00
Four cows	109 00
Repairs	14 85
Baker's bread	24 58
Clothing	78 75
Dry goods	166 80
Boots, shoes, repairs	101 74
Hardware, pumps, etc.	104 62
Fresh fish	73 57
Blacksmith bill	18 32
Ice	5 00
Two yokes of oxen	210 00
Medicine and medical attendance	109 86
Bills paid at Farm	60 90
Lumber	36 77
Harrington's salary	554 17
Bills for labor at Farm	235 10
	$4109 01

RECEIPTS FROM THE FARM.

Cook Brothers for hogs	92 56
M P Thayer, apples	29 10
Received for hay	137 12
H C Scott, butter, etc	90 41
Bills paid by S Harrington	103 39
E B Mead, two yokes fat oxen	294 18
E B Mead, veal and produce	244 20
Bartlett & Ellis, old lead	1 75
Board of Mrs. Jones	129 25
Quinlan pension and State Aid	116 50
	$1238 46

PERSONS RECEIVING AID AWAY FROM FARM IN MILFORD.

John Burke	$71 00
Rhoda Allen	81 70
Mrs Thomas Rabbitt	181 07
Edward McKanna	48 70
Mrs Cornelius Sullivan	65 09
Patrick Butler	21 13
Patrick J Burns	30 26
Daniel Shea	105 87
Mrs Michael Lyons	77 25
Mary O'Connor	63 03
Martin Maley	28 11
Patrick Clunan	43 76
Wm Breen	4 00
Patrick Clynes	116 61
Rancy Danuelx	22 71
Daniel Higgins	36 97
Bridget Moore	20 38
Michael Sheehan	21 13
Martin Ward	33 36
Mrs Moses Hoytt	41 61
Merrill Hoytt	12 35
John Walch	25 33
Mrs Dennis O'Connor	49 94
Bartholomew Conway	22 87
Patrick McGrath	24 00
Michael Hageney	31 79
Andrew Gilroy	20 28
Martin Keenan	40 29
Patrick Curry	63 62
Charles Hoytt	33 53
Patrick Flynn	13 00
Patrick Flynn, 2d	75 45
Mrs Thomas Finton	57 68
Owen O'Hara	5 52
Patrick Sullivan	14 00
Mrs Michael White	17 38
Michael McCarty	15 95
Milton H Morse	13 83
Thomas Hogan	60 73
Thomas Barry	175 87
Mrs James Boland	3 44
Mrs. Hugh Glennan	52 00
Mrs. Stephen Burke	133 59
Mary Cox	34 00
Dennis Griffin	42 70

Mrs. Catherine Riley	12 00
John Rowe's family	69 71
Patrick Gahagan	119 41
Mrs. Warren Ellis	8 25
Mrs. John Hogan	81 04
Mrs. M A Ahern	60 06
Edward Holohan	3 71
Mrs. Patrick Conniff	39 79
Michael McCormick	15 68
Mrs. Hannora Dillon	9 75
R. D. H. Beaty	74 01
Mrs. Harry Sidley	17 25
Peter Dunn	20 12
Mrs. Patrick Powers	48 25
Michael O'Connell.	65 92
Mrs. Winnifred Casey	8 25
John Foy	72 65
Thomas Welch	10 00
Timothy Finton	6 00
Edward Sireack	14 00
Mrs. James A Kennedy	50 83
Patrick McDermott	29 70
George Horner	9 44
Nora Crahan	156 00
Wm. Masterson	19 90
Mrs. Michael Connors	5 75
Charles Snowland	16 00
Ellis Daniels	7 25
Michael Fitzgerald	10 95
Martin O'Connell	2 05
Michael Galvin	11 50
James Cross	24 00
Mrs. John Mahona	3 50
Mrs. Charles Forbush	22 13
Michael Coy	39 46
Dennis Ryan	44 55
Jeremiah Haynes	16 80
Jeremiah Toomey	10 00
Mrs John P Moore	131 23
Elijah Hildreth	6 55
Rufus Moody	21 69
Michael McCormick	11 25
Wm Basford	71 12
Mary Cronan	5 50
Mrs Mary Rogers	19 00
Mrs Ann Quinlivan	8 00
Mary Smith	26 30
James Small	41 89

Bridget and Susan Sweeney	94 29
Patrick Conniff	46 00
Silas Bradford	5 00
John Flynn	21 93
W H Scofield	4 00
	$3902 29

INSANE.

Henry Cain	$180 91
Caroline Coughlin	184 06
Manard Rawson	189 16
Ann Lahay	102 17
Elizabeth Eames	120 84
Dennis Pyne	172 07
John O'Hara	173 82
Charles W Hunt	40 86
Richard Day	75 58
James T Fanning	18 86
	$1258 33

Belonging in Milford but Living in Other Towns.

Fleming Adams, Wrentham	$123 10
Anna Gaton, Franklin	2 20
Mrs. Mary Holland, Cambridge	23 64
Lydia Ann Parkhurst, Leicester	20 55
Wm. E Bruce, Northboro	1 70
Andrew Tutroe, Holden	16 24
Johanna Slattery, Hopkinton	40 10
Margaret Quinn, Lowell	76 70
Wm. J Stewart, Marlboro	17 13
Daniel Dugan, Waltham	75 14
Keziah Wilcox, Douglas	24 15
Mrs. Terrance Russell, Abington	43 80
Thomas Mullen, Medway	46 00
Mary Bernard, Boston	21 13
Mrs. Thomas Moran, Boston	177 92
Mary Sheehe, Worcester	21 50
Catherine Hynes, Worcester	19 30
Patrick Boyle, Worcester	21 35
Moses P Boover, Haverhill	8 50
Patrick Sullivan's children, Fall River	45 84
Michael Cain, Ashland	14 00
Mrs. Wm. Maley, Blackstone	51 57
Geo. C White, Franklin	15 00
Henry O Anthony, Upton	6 00
Nicholas Allen, Somerville	3 00
John O'Sullivan, Mendon	43 70
	$959 26

Paupers belonging in other Towns, living in Milford.

Patrick Jones, Boston	76 08
John Lynch, "	69 13
Richard Carey, "	54 56
Mrs Jas Maley, "	27 20
Jerome Prince, Northbridge	19 00
Geo E Christian, Nantucket	54 50
Emison Morse, Holliston	46 13
Frank Finn, "	70 21
Jane and Mary Ann Reaves, Holliston	38 80
John Clancy, Upton	42 29
William Coffee, Gloucester	47 01
Michael Murphy, Hopkinton	64 58
Benj Fairbanks, "	11 00
Wm H Bigelow, "	23 25
George W Brown, Uxbridge	102 68
J Onley Langley, Warren	39 70
Adolphus A Porter, Worcester	5 00
Lewis G Fales, Medway	73 83
Moses S Force, "	5 00
Henry H Howard, Mendon	5 40
Nathan Streeter, "	6 86
Edward Carter, Holliston	16 25
Mrs J Daley, Northbridge	144 23
Benjamin Newton, Shrewsbury	6 00
Sylvester Andrews, Northbridge	3 50
E W Southland, Marlboro	7 38
John P Hughes, Holliston	21 05
Mrs Hiram Adams, Blackstone	116 00
Michael Mahony, Randolph	1 60
Horace H Ryan, Millbury	10 00
	$1208 22

State Paupers.

Edward Gallagher,	Wm. Harty,
Dodd children,	Patrick Tarpey,
Mrs. D. Gilmore,	Mrs. James O'Brien,
Levi Brooks,	Mrs. Chestina Mahaffey,
Michael Tinon,	Mrs. Grace Ann Shepard,
Michael Murphy,	Malvina Savage,
Wm. Fahey,	Susan Twohey,
John Hayes.	Mrs. McGrath,
Edward Butler,	John Hill,
Elixa A. Buxton,	Michael Finn,
Crohen Connell,	Joshua M. Downing,
Jeremiah Coffee,	Abraham Tilliston,
Thomas Osborn,	John Petted.

Lucian Shepard, John A Cummings.	Hannah Cooney,	
Amount paid for support of above		$975 90
214 tramps		25 00

Incidentals.

G W Stacy, printing books, etc	10 62
S A Mather, cutting wood	21 38
Charlton vs. Milford	5 30
Postal cards and stamps	4 00
	$41 30

Due from other Towns and Cities, Feb. 1st, 1880.

Boston	113 13
Nantucket	23 00
Gloucester	1 35
Hopkinton	23 25
Warren	143 85
Medway	20 50
Mendon	12 26
Northbridge	74 05
Holliston	15 45
Randolph	1 60
Blackstone	65 00
Uxbridge	30 89
Marlboro	5 38
	$529 71

Receipts, Feb. 1st, 1879.

Boots and wood on hand	$265 00
Cash of Holliston	217 56
Upton	66 21
State	351 14
Cook Brothers for hogs	92 56
Merrick P Thayer, apples	29 10
Quinlan, State Aid and Pension	116 50
Northbridge	91 68
Worcester	11 00
Medway	70 33
Boston	140 25
Shrewsbury	6 00
Blackstone	41 00
Millbury	10 00
Gloucester	64 50
Hopkinton	114 38
Hay	137 12
Bartlett & Ellis	1 75

Basford estate	29 23
E B Mead	538 38
H C Scott	90 41
Harrington	103 39
Jones property	129 25
Nantucket	31 50
Michael Dunn	5 00
E C Claflin	9620 16
Uxbridge,	77 69
Marlboro	2 00
	$12,453 09
Balance due the Overseers	26 22
	$12,479 31

RECAPITULATION.

Expense at farm	$4109 01
Persons receiving aid in Milford away from farm	3902 29
Persons belonging to other towns	1208 22
Persons belonging to Milford living in other towns	959 26
State paupers	975 90
214 tramps	25 00
Insane	1258 33
Incidentals	41 30
	$12,479 31

There was on hand, Feb. 1, 1880, personal property to the amount of $4092.58, consisting in part as follows: 1 horse, 14 cows, 1 yoke oxen, vegetables, hay, furniture, etc. The valuation does not vary much from year to year. Furniture and farming tools are in good repair. The Superintendent is paid to March 1, 1880; salary $550. The town doctor is paid to April 1, 1880; salary, $125. Sick state poor, paid to Jan. 1, 1880, and bills sent to Board of State Charities. Members admitted to farm the past year, 67. Average, 34. Present number, 37. Average weekly cost, $1.63. By the repeal of the Soldiers' Aid Law in Jan. 1879, eight families who claimed a settlement in this town have been settled in other towns and cities. The suit between Milford, Uxbridge and Warren resulted in a verdict against Warren, and the case goes to the Supreme Court. The claim of the town of Charlton against Milford, has been settled by finding the family had a settlement in Hopkinton; cost to Milford $5.30.

We have charges against the Commonwealth to the amount of about $1000 which have not been audited, some of which are four

years' old; and as the towns and cities are entirely at the mercy of the Visiting Agent, we cannot tell how much they are worth, although $750 of the bills are paid at the price set by the Visiting Agent. The Overseers of the Poor in many towns and cities are tired of this way of doing business, and probably will meet in convention to try and influence the next Legislature to pass laws that the people can understand, and do away with the necessity of lawsuits between town and town.

Total cost the past year	$12,479 31
" receipts	12,453 09
Balance due the Overseers	$26 22

We have drawn from the Treasurer the past year $1919.07 less than last year; and have not expended the appropriation by $379.84.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIAS WHITNEY,
JOHN MADDEN,
CHESTER L. CLARK,
} Overseers of the Poor of Milford.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS

OF THE

MILFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 11, 1880.

Cash on hand Feb. 8, 1879		$ 69 97
Received of Ethan C Claflin for pay of members		3600 00
" " " incidentals		900 00
" " " purchase of hose		493 50
" " " repairs		100 00
" Aaron Claflin S. F. E. Co., No. 2, for coal		1 50
" Patrick Casey, for old lumber		1 00
Total amount of receipts		$5165 97
Total amount of expenditures	$5053 37	
Cash on hand Feb. 11, 1880	112 60	
		$5165 97

EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid	
Charles H Hoyt	$10 00
William Remick	9 00
Milford Gas Co	251 20
Frank Folay	1 00
Dennis Cahill	1 00
H E Morgan	50
Field & Crosby	7 13
Henry Willard	304 11
Milford S. F. E. Co. No. 1	162 50
Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1	300 00
Wide Awake Hose Co. No. 1	285 00
Washington Engine Co. No. 1	717 50
North Star Engine Co. No. 4	740 00
Merrill Hoyt	15 00
A Tyler	63 40
Ethan Kinsman	3 00
James Morey	10 50
M W Edwards	40 00
Aaron Claflin S F E Co. No 2	227 50
Extinguisher No. 1	166 25
N B Fairbanks	183 45
Board of Engineers	250 00
William J. Shields	25 65

C L Witherell	150 00
W L Harden	6 25
C E Moorhouse	10 75
A Stephens	20 99
W J Blanchard	41 50
Henry C Skinner	1 40
Hopedale Machine Co	6 97
J M Rose	75
C F Walker	25
D B Jenks	50
S B Holbrook	32 25
Orrin Gilbert	30 00
L A Merritt	1 00
D B Rockwood	5 75
Julius M Woods	96 22
S L Pierce	13 92
H L Patrick	4 48
A S Tuttle	2 00
J E Batten	1 00
C O Woodbury	150 00
A Armstrong	1 00
Hopedale Stable Co	2 25
E E Cook	37 50
J D Hunt	6 00
W H Britton	21 99
Ross, Turner & Co	495 90
H M Mann & S G Pettes	8 37
E A & L A Cook	68 45
E J Morse	15 16
James Curran	1 55
Edward Walker	7 50
Cook & Withington	10 80
Bartlett & Ellis	27 23
Cash on hand	112 60
	$5,165 97

There have been nineteen alarms of fire from Jan. 1, 1879 to Jan. 1 1880, from the following causes:

Out of town, 1; grass in cemetery, 1; cornstack, 1; false alarm, 2; woods, 7; in buildings, 7.

The present number of members in the department is one hundred and seventy, divided as follows:

Engineers, 7; Washington Engine Company No. 1, 49; North Star Engine Company No. 4, 46; Milford Steamer Company No. 1,

11; A Claflin Steamer Company No. 2, 12; Extinguisher Company No. 1, 9; Wide Awake Hose Company No. 1, 16; Excelsior Hook & Ladder Company No. 1, 20.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY.

Five engine houses and furniture for the same.
Two hand engines and hose carriages.
Two steam fire engines and hose carriages.
One four-wheeled hose carriage and fixtures for the same.
One Babcock fire extinguisher.
One hook and ladder carriage, with hooks, forks, ladders and buckets for the same.
Eighteen Reservoirs, located as follows:

One near the town house, on So. Bow street; one near the junction of Main and Spruce streets; one at Lincoln square; one on the Parish common; one on the corner of Main and Fruit sts.; one on West street near Walker's boot factory; one on Congress street; one on Exchange street; one on Central street; one on Jefferson street; one at the junction of Pearl and School streets; one on Walnut street near the school house; one on North road near J. Hancock's house; one at North Milford; one at Jonesville; one on the corner of West and Lee streets; one on Grove near Forest street; one on the corner of Hayward and Parkhurst streets.

CONDITION OF PROPERTY.

The Engine Houses are all in good repair, but some of the reservoirs are partly filled with sand, and need some repairs.

ENGINES AND CARRIAGES.

Washington Engine No. 1, Button & Son, builders, is located in No. 1 Engine House.

North Star Engine No. 4, Jeffers, builder, is located at North Milford in No. 4 Engine House.

Milford Steam Fire Engine No. 1, Cole Brothers, builders, is located in the Steamer House.

Aaron Claflin Steam Fire Engine No. 2, Amoskeag build, is located in the Steamer House.

Wide Awake Hose Carriage, No. 1, is located in No. 1 Engine House.

Excelsior Hook & Ladder Carriage No. 1, is located in No. 2 Engine House.

Extinguisher No. 1 is located in the Engine House at Hopedale.

All the above apparatus is in good repair. There are six thousand six hundred and fifty feet of hose in the department, some of which is not entirely reliable.

That the pay of members be the same as last year, and the appropriation of the following sums of money:

Pay of members	$3,600 00
Incidental expenses	1200 00
Repairs of reservoirs and houses	200 00

J. M. WOODS,
MOSES DAY,
ASAPH WITHINGTON,
L. WAKEFIELD,
M. W. EDWARDS,
J. B. BANCROFT,
HENRY C. SKINNER,

Board of Engineers.

TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1879-80.

Clerk, LEWIS FALES.

Treasurer, ETHAN C. CLAFLIN.

Selectmen and Highway Surveyors,

JOSEPH B. BANCROFT, MATTHEW CALLANAN, DANIEL J. CRONAN.

Assessors,

ANDREW J. SUMNER, PATRICK McGARRY, BENJAMIN WARD.

Overseers of the Poor,

ELIAS WHITNEY, JOHN MADDEN, CHESTER L. CLARK.

Collector of Taxes, JOSEPH H. WOOD.

Constables,

Oliver D. Holmes, Michael W. Edwards, Solon S. Cook, James J. Madden, Martin Broderick, Thomas Donahue, Edwin F. Chapin, James Sherman, Thomas F. Hayes, Benjamin H. Montague, C. E. Clark, Joseph E. Batten, Sidney W. Pierce, James Powers, Philip O'Donnell, F. H. French.

Fence Viewers,

ANDREW J. SUMNER AND ELIAS WHITNEY.

Surveyors of Lumber.

JAMES BERGIN AND FRANK ROACH.

Field Drivers,

WILLIAM FITZPATRICK AND FRANCIS KENNEDY.

School Committee,

CHARLES A. DEWEY, J. T. CANAVAN, } Term expires March, 1880.

GEORGE W. JOHNSON, ZIBEON C. FIELD, } Term expires March, 1881.

CHARLES J. THOMPSON, GEORGE G. PARKER, } Term expires March, 1882.

Trustees of Town Library,

Silas W. Hale, David G. Minton, P. A. Gleason, C. W. Shippee, E. D. Bancroft, J. Allen Rice, Charles Lynch, A. A. Burrill, Henry B. Thayer, C. J. Thompson, C. W. Wilcox, C. A. Dewey, Henry J. Bailey.

Trustees of Vernon Grove Cemetery,

W. IRVING BRADBURY, H. C. SKINNER, } Term expires March, 1880.

JOHN M. WOOD, J. ALLEN RICE, } Term expires March, 1881.

LEONARD FAIRBANKS, ISAAC N. CROSBY, } Term expires March, 1882.

Park Commissioners,

Zibeon C. Field, Henry E. Fales, Dwight Russell.

Engineers of Fire Department,

J. M. Woods, Moses Day, Asaph Withington, J. B. Bancroft, M. W. Edwards, L. S. Wakefield, Henry C. Skinner.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

For the year ending March 1, 1880.

BIRTHS.

There were 169 births recorded, of which 84 had fathers of foreign birth, and 83 had mothers of foreign birth; 85 had fathers of American birth, and 86 had mothers of American birth.

There were 81 males and 88 females.

There were 31 births less than in 1878.

MARRIAGES.

There were 64 marriages recorded, being 8 less than 1878; 4 of which the groom and bride were of foreign birth, 4 of which the groom was of foreign birth and the bride American, and 5 the bride was of foreign birth and the groom American, and 50 both groom and bride were of American birth.

DEATHS.

There were 169 deaths recorded, being 5 less than in 1878, of which 70 were of American parentage, and 99 of foreign parentage; 47 were less than 5 years old, 18 were 5 years and less than 20 years, 36 were 20 and less than 50 years old, 51 were 50 years and less than 80 years old, 13 were 80 years old and over.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

Consumption, 27,
Old Age, 19,
Diphtheria, 14,
Pneumonia, 12,
Disease of Brain, 8,
Cancer, 6,
Cholera Infantum, 7,
Heart Disease, 6,
Accidental, 4,
Paralysis, 4,
Suicide, 2,
Dyspepsia, 2,
Dropsy, 2,
Bronchitis, 4,
Decline, 4,
Disease of Throat, 3,
Bilious Fever, 3,
Typhoid Fever, 3,
Apoplexy, 3,
Meningitis, 3,
Still Born, 3,
Spinal Disease, 2,
Pleurisy, 2,
Hernia, 2,
Disease of Bowels, 2,
Disease of Liver, 2.

Also one death from each of the following named causes:—Teething, whooping cough, croup, kidney disease, child-birth, disease of bones, diarrhœa, dysentery, congestion, blood poison, insanity, neuralgia, bilious colic.

There have been 258 dogs licensed since the 30th of April, 1879, being 26 less than last year; 11 licenses were issued for female dogs, and 245 for male dogs.

There have been 47 liquor licenses recorded for the year commencing May 1, 1879.

REPORT OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN LIBRARY.

To The Citizens of Milford:—The Trustees of the Public Library respectfully submit the following report:

The past year has witnessed the great business revival, and though it has caused a diminished circulation of the books of the library, we must not infer that it has affected its usefulness; for active business, though calling less for the lighter ephemeral literature, produces a demand on the past for the results of experience. It claims less reading for mere diversion, and seeks more for that which can aid it in the activities of the day.

What books a public library should afford, is an important question. Certainly there are some it should not afford. Said a librarian in answer to the query: "What books do you want for your library?" "A copy of every work printed." Loud protests have arisen in Boston and elsewhere the past year against this wholesale, undiscriminating mode of buying. That book whose hero is a runaway from home, with pistol and dime novel for companions, with adventure the object of his search, is fraught with as much danger, and as thoroughly pernicious, in character, as association with the gamins of the street. And yet many a mother, who would not tolerate her child's association with the latter, is unconscious of the insidious presence of the former. Under the guise of reading, her child, she thinks, is learning. Yes. But what? How to pass the time in what is worse than mere play—mental debauchery. Recognizing this fact, the school board of Boston has caused to be hung up in the school room printed lists of not only such books as have a bearing on the subjects studied, but such as are noted for their bright, genial fancy and real merit. Novels will be read, but let them be like those of Scott, Dickens or Thackeray. Let them be at least as good as the Arabian Nights or Robinson Crusoe. Show us the boy who pores over Bristol Bill or Texas Jack, and we will show you an incipient burglar or ruffian, and if he does not at last fill the bill it will not be from lack of appropriate reading.

Where a few years ago your committee saw empty spaces and plenty of room, they now behold shelf on shelf, well occupied and full. Room will soon be the library's need. The time is approaching when private munificence will stand conspicuously forth in the town's adornment. In the words of Daniel Webster, we have passed through "our long contest with unreclaimed nature and uncivilized man, our agony of glory, the war of Independence, the first victory of peace, the formation and establishment of our constitution," its heroic vindication, and at last we are entered upon an era of peace the grandest the world has ever seen. This era will behold the repetition of what has transpired in the republics of the past. Large-hearted, generous-minded men will rise. Already the advancing wave has touched many of our cities and larger towns. Hospitals have been built, schools endowed, libraries erected, and the patriot commemorated. Milford will yet exhibit the crown and flower of highest citizenship, of noblest manhood. Freedom may yet speak to coming generations from lofty column in public square. From marble tablets on library walls the coming youth may yet spell the names of souls heroic. Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war, but the heroes of war made the victories of peace possible.

Respectfully submitted by Committee,

S. W. Hale, Chairman.

The Committee recommend an appropriation of one thousand dollars.

To The Trustees of Milford Town Library:—I present herewith my sixth, and the twenty-first annual, report of the town library.

The library year commenced Feb. 10, 1879, and ended Feb. 7, 1880, and the library was open 306 days. The whole number of books taken out was 34,490, against 36,306 the year previous.

Largest daily circulation, Feb. 22, 1879	452
Smallest " " June 10, 1879	19

The number of cards issued during the year, 527; making a total of 2385 since the adoption of the slip system.

Number of postal card notices sent delinquents	151
Number of books recovered by personal application	9

Number of books not returned, 3. Lydia Jones, 372 F., has left town; resides in Conn. John Powers, Mendon road, 767 F., taken out July 19, 1879. Delia McLaughlin, West street, 733 F., taken out May 3, 1879.

The volume reported in last town report as not returned, was recovered early in the library year.

During the year 4 volumes were stolen by a professional book thief, who is now serving a year's sentence in the House of Correction, for the same offence in Clinton. The 4 volumes were recovered by the prompt assistance of Sheriff A. B. R. Sprague and Chief of Police Washburn of Worcester, to whom our special thanks are given.

There has been collected for fines, $61.71; and for catalogues, $5.70. The number of actual readers in the reading-room has been kept since March 1st, 1879, 289 days, amounting to 9053, an average of over 31 daily.

The number of books added during the year is 138; by purchase, 126; by donation, 6; by binding Magazines and Patent Office reports, 6. The books donated were from U. S. Treasury Department, 1; Surgeon Gen. Barnes, 1; Massachusetts State documents, 4. I give below a statement showing classification, growth, size and use of our library, which I trust may be of interest.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

NATH'L. F. BLAKE, Librarian.

Milford, Feb. 13, 1880.

		No. in catalogue, 1879.	Additions.	Total No. of volumes.	No. of vols. issued in '78.	No. of vols. issued in '79.
A.	History	362	7	369	945	800
B.	Biography	542	20	562	916	913
C.	Oratory, Politics and Law	514	5	519	88	100
D.	Travels	452	11	463	1765	1703
E.	Science	614	20	634	887	801
F.	Fiction	1331	31	1362	20117	18955
G.	Miscellaneous	574	12	586	1357	2255
H.	Religion	322		322	235	156
I.	Poetry	259	11	270	530	537
J.	Juvenile	477	21	498	9446	8270
	Total	5447				
	Accession during the year		138			
	No. of vols., as per catalogue			5585		
	Circulation				36306	34490

Per cent. of Fiction and Juvenile in 1878, .81½ nearly.
" " " 1879, a little less than .79.

TREASURER'S REPORT OF MILFORD TOWN LIBRARY.

Dr.

Cash from last report	$193 39
E C Claflin, town appropriation	800 00
" " one-half dog tax	248 51
Librarian for fines	61 71
" catalogues	5 70
" old papers	3 33
" books lost	2 42
	$1315 06

Cr.

Librarian	$300 00
Care of reading room	76 75
Rent of rooms	200 00
Insurance	57 00
Gas	138 60
Coal	20 76
Printing	15 50
Binding	36 68
Papers and magazines	68 90
Books	144 48
Express	3 00
Stationery and incidentals	10 95
Blocks	6 00
Index Book	2 00
Matting	9 35
Covering Paper	19 52
Balance in treasury	205 57
	$1315 06

J. Allen Rice, Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF VERNON GROVE CEMETERY,

For the year ending February 15, 1880.

We have given deeds of six lots, for which we have received sixty-four dollars.

There have been fifty-two interments in the cemetery during the year.

The treasurer submits the following report:

DR.

To cash paid treasurer		$45 01
" " for dressing		6 00
" " for plants		1 95
" " for labor		10 25
" " Bartlett & Ellis, repairs		2 55
		$65 76

CR.

By cash received sale of lots		64 00
interest from W B Dyer estate		9 00
" Eunice Albee estate		6 00
Theron Holbrook estate		6 00
		$85 00
Balance in treasury	$19 24	

W. I. BRADBURY, SECRETARY.

W. IRVING BRADBURY, H. C. SKINNER, } Term expires March, 1880.

JOHN M. WOOD, J. ALLEN FAY, } Term expires March, 1881.

LEONARD FAIRBANKS, ISAAC N. CROSBY, } Term expires March, 1882.

REPORT OF THE PARK COMMITTEE.

At the last annual town meeting the undersigned were elected a committee to have, in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen, the care and supervision of the town park, and to make report of their doings to the town, Pursuant to the above vote, we submit the following:

The town appropriated $100 to be expended in replacing the trees previously set upon the park, and which had died, and in planting trees in the grove as should be found necessary. The committee have procured and planted 112 trees, of different varieties, at a gross cost of $99.75, leaving a balance of 25 cents of the appropriation unexpended.

The trees procured and planted were principally maples of different varieties, elms and lindens. About 60 were needed to fill the gaps in the rows, and the balance were set in the grove. The parties from whom the trees were purchased will furnish six more the coming spring free of cost, to replace any that did not grow.

By careful preservation of the trees now growing, and the preservation and use of the seedlings that from year to year spring up in the grove, the committee believe no further expenditure of any great amount will be necessary. A small outlay from time to time may be wise to procure trees for ornamental grouping, etc., but the amount which should be expended in this direction will be small.

As is well known, two ancient drains, or water courses, enter the park from the north side, and the water flowing therefrom, together with the overflow from the spring, is carried through open ditches, or soaks into the ground, at the lower or east side of the park.

The committee earnestly recommend that suitable covered drains be constructed connecting with the drain built by the town, near the land of A. W. Keene, to carry off the water, and that the scrapings and refuse of the streets be used to grade up the low

places, and make even and uniform the surface of the ground; an for that purpose, we ask an appropriation of $200. This being a complished, little else remains to be done, except to take care what we have and let nature do the rest. A taste for landscap gardening and park decoration in cities and towns, is rapidly gai ing and extending among our people, and cities and towns that d not take measures to provide themselves with suitable parks an commons, are behind the times. By the public spirit and liberalit of our older citizens, we have a park which, with care and judicio improvement, can be made equal, or superior, to any one owned b a town of the size of ours in the State, and it simply remains f us of the present day to carry on the good work begun 15 yea ago. A reasonable outlay from year to year to make our town a tractive and enjoyable, is money well expended, and will earn f us the gratitude of future generations; and a park such as our properly preserved and fostered, will be a continual source of prid and enjoyment to the people of Milford.

Respectfully submitted.

DWIGHT RUSSELL,
Z. C. FIELD,
H. E. FALES,
} Park Committee.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AND

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

OF THE

TOWN OF MILFORD,

FOR THE

SCHOOL YEAR 1879-80.

MILFORD, MASS.
Cook and Sons, Steam Job Printers,
Journal Office, *1880.*

BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

dead MATTHEW CALLANAN, CHARLES A. DEWEY,	Term expires 1880.
dead GEORGE W. JOHNSON, dead ZIBEON C. FIELD,	Term expires 1881.
dead CHARLES J. THOMPSON, dead GEORGE G. PARKER,	Term expires 1882.

dead JOHN W. ALLARD,

Superintendent of Schools.

REPORT.

The School Committee submit the following report.

The appropriations made for the support of our schools the past year were as follows:

For salaries of teachers	$16500 00
salary of Superintendent	1200 00
expenses of evening school	500 00
care of schoolhouses	1000 00
fuel	1000 00
repairs	1000 00
incidentals	750 00
received from dog tax	311 74
received from school fund	220 35
	$22,482 09

The expenses of the year have been:

Salaries of teachers	$15984 50
Salary of Superintendent	1266 66
Care of houses	958 01
Fuel	973 29
Repairs	1005 08
Evening school	443 99
Incidentals	1197 20
	$21.828 73

During the past year, a change has been made in the important office of Superintendent of our schools; and your Committee deemed themselves highly fortunate last summer in securing the services of one so well qualified to discharge the duties of the office as Mr. John W. Allard. Possessed of those qualities of head and heart essential to success in such a position, he has had a large share of practical experience as a teacher in High schools, and elsewhere, and has served as School Superintendent in other towns for a considerable number of years, in an acceptable manner. He has now been with us, acting in that capacity, for two terms, and your Committee feel entirely satisfied with the work he has done in supervising our schools.

We believe in the great importance, or rather the necessity, of a good Superintendent in a town like Milford, in order to maintain

the due efficiency of our schools. Some of our citizens indeed think it is incurring a needless expense to hire a Superintendent to do the work formerly done by the committee; but we look at this matter in a very different light, and we are united in regarding this expenditure as an an eminently judicious one. Considering the large sum of more than twenty thousand dollars annually spent in the education of our children in the public schools, it is surely of the first importance that this money should be expended to the best advantage. An able and impartial Superintendent can do much to aid the Committee in selecting suitable teachers for our schools, and in promoting those who are worthy of promotion, in case an opportunity occurs. And our teachers should be instructed by him as to the best modes of maintaining good order and discipline, of imparting knowledge to those under their care, and of awakening and stimulating their interest in their studies. There is an immense deal of money wasted in this country every year, from the want of this very thing —suitable supervision of our common schools.

In order to secure competent supervision, to procure and retain the services of a suitable Superintendent, there must be a reasonably adequate salary attached to the office. And so we regretted to see the annual appropriation for this purpose cut down from fifteen hundred to twelve hundred dollars. We cannot think this good economy on the part of the town, and desire specially to call the attention of our fellow-citizens to the expediency of increasing this appropriation.

While we thought this reduction unwise, we have seen fit to reduce the salary of the Principal of the High school to $1500, and the salaries of three Principals of our Grammar schools to $600 each.

Although we are well aware that this town cannot afford to be extravagant in any direction, we do feel that the education of the common people is essential to the prosperity of the State, and indeed to the very existence of the Republic. We feel that what is worth doing, is worth doing well, and that the community should willingly pay whatever may be necessary to maintain in all their integrity those great pillars upon which rests the whole fabric of our national liberties. Let not the citizens of Milford, then, be disposed to economise too closely, as they appropriate money for the services of those engagéd in that most important work of training up our boys and girls to become useful members of society:

After due deliberation, your Committee recommend the following appropriations for the coming year:

For salaries of teachers	$16,500 00
salary of Superintendent	1,500 00
care of schoolhouses	1,000 00
fuel	1,000 00
repairs	1,000 00
incidentals	1,000 00
evening school	500 00
	$22,500 00

C. A. DEWEY, Chairman.
C. J. THOMPSON, Secretary.
G. W. JOHNSON,
Z. C. FIELD,
M. CALLANAN,
G. G. PARKER.

PAID FOR TEACHING.

Silas W Hale	$1497 50
Clara M Howard	585 00
Anna M Bancroft	487 50
Lillie B Godfrey	87 50
Mary A Parkhurst	281 25
Mrs Jennie A Whiting	616 00
Sarah C Belcher	114 00
Mary J Kelley	330 00
Ada A Skinner	306 00
Helen S Eames	616 00
Alice B Chapin	342 00
Ellen A Moriarty	306 00
Mary F Devine	306 00
Eva R Draper	216 00
Edward Day	400 00
Carra V Saddler	342 00
Lilla B Cook	306 00
Mary F Aylward	306 00
Minnie L Mann	396 00
Carrie L Harris	396 00
Kate E Martin	396 00
Jennie M Russell	306 00
Susan E Inman	306 00
Faustina M Knight	306 00
Delia C Gleason	342 00
Kate Chapin	306 00
Julia M Barry	306 00
Anna L Adams	306 00
Annie E Sheldon	306 00
S Eldora Sheldon	306 00
Maggie F Madden	294 00
Maggie L Murphy	306 00
Susan E Broderick	306 00

Hannah M Broderick	204 00
Mary E. Cochran. Broke	301 75
Sarah F Burns ...married	306 00
Mary J Kelley, 2d ...dead	306 00
Ann Augusta Cay. ...married	306 00
Jennie L Goodrich ...married	306 00
A Oreanna Cheney ...married	102 00
X Amanda C Scammell ...dead	204 00
Julia E Connolly ...dead	102 00
Eva E Norcross ...at Rich dead	396 00
Kate A Wallace ...dead	306 00
Emilie T Hart ...Braggville	306 00
X Flora M Knowlton	204 00
X Eva W Cook	102 00
√ Mallie F Gleason	204 00
	$15,984 50
Unexpended	515 50
	$16,500 00
Appropriation $16,500	

SUPERINTENDENT.

John W Simonds	$666 66
John W Allard	600 00
	$1266 66
Appropriation $1200 00	
Exceeded appropriation 66 66	
	$1266 00

CARE OF SCHOOL HOUSES.

Silas W Hale	$ 97 50
William Kelley	150 35
William Cochrane	33 33
Patrick Donahue	87 33
Ira Wight	121 50
John Burke	36 00
George W Walker	12 00
Wallace Stimpson	24 00
Carrie L Harris	18 00
A A Cay	18 00
A O Cheney	6 00
Amanda C Scammell	12 00
Julia E Connolly	6 00
Hannah M Broderick	12 00
Eva E Norcross	18 00
Frank Morrill	108 00

Kate A Wallace	18 00
Emilie T Hart	18 00
Flora M Knowlton	12 00
Eva W Cook	6 00
Mary Milan	54 00
Patrick Madden	18 00
John Brannon	36 00
Susan R Broderick	18 00
Mary J Kelley, 2d	18 00
	$958 01
Unexpended	41 99
	$1000 00

Appropriation for care, $1000.

PAID FOR REPAIRS.

Field & Crosby, lumber for various repairs	$ 88 41
John W. Simonds, cash paid for repairs	27 43
E. M. Noyes, repairs at sundry school houses	48 43
Gaylon Davis, shingling Braggville and West st. school houses	173 00
Eldredge & Beatley, sundry repairs	119 73
J. E. Batten, carting desks, &c.	4 92
Jas. Bergin, repairs at High school, So. Grammar, Plains, City, &c.	136 02
Jas. Bergen, Shingling Bear Hill school house	95 97
Bartlett & Ellis, repairs to doors, &c.	8 59
do do of stoves, &c., &c.	37 12
Geo. H. Kendall, do at Claflin school	6 05
T. E. Morse, glazing, &c.	42 26
J. W. Harris, repairs of stoves, &c.	69 78
Sidney W. Pierce, repairs at High school and Braggville	14 74
N. England Furnishing Co., desks at High school	80 00
	$952 45
Charged by the town for grading school yards	52 63
	$1,005 08
Appropriation for repairs	1,000 00
Exceeded the appropriation	$5 08

PAID FOR FUEL.

Barney & Son, for wood, delivered in spring	$ 40 28
do " " contracted for in the summer,	83 83
Field & Crosby, " coal, delv. in spring	262 90
do " " contracted for in June	581 78

E. H. Hildreth, shavings		4 50
		$973 29
Unexpended		26 71
		$1,000 00
Appropriation for fuel	$1,000	

PAID FOR EVENING SCHOOL.

B H Montague, janitor	$ 10 50
Chas. J Thompson, teacher, spring 1879	143 75
do " winter 1879-80	225 00
do " for cash paid blackboard, &c.	11 74
Field & Crosby, coal	13 00
Charged by town for gas	40 00
	$443 99
Unexpended	56 01
	$500 00

Appropriation for Evening School, $500.

John W Simonds, cash paid for rent of office, 1878, books for indigent pupils, desk books, and sundry school supplies	$163 92
John W Simonds, cash paid for books and furniture in Superintendent's office	267 77
John W Simonds, sundries for school use	158 75
Thomas Donahue, truant officer	20 00
Thomas Quirk, use of well at Plains	5 00
John Gleason, " Hoboken	3 00
Richmond Stone, " No. Purchase, 2 yrs	8 00
John Madden, " West street	5 00
Timothy Wallace, " Bear Hill	5 00
O B Parkhurst " Old Town House	5 00
G O Hatch, " Hopedale	5 00
George W Stacy, printing, ink and stationery	36 74
George G Parker, rent of Superintendent's office	45 00
Cook & Sons, printing and notices	33 00
George E. Stacy, for services as secretary	25 00
J W Harris, sundry supplies	46 01
" furnace and pipe for High school	237 00
H E Morgan, chemicals for High school	3 43
Milford Gas Light company, gas at High school	13 05
R C Eldridge, repairing clocks	1 75
C W Wilcox, " "	3 00
A S Tuttle, school supplies	6 15
John Gaffeney, labor	4 00
D B Jenks, stove pipe and labor	7 33

John W Allard, for cash paid for books for teachers' desks and indigent pupils		89 30
		$1197 20
Unexpended		84 89
		$1282 09
Appropriation by vote of town	$750 00	
State fund for schools	311 74	
One-half the dog tax	220 35	
		$1282 09
Whole amount appropriated by vote of the town for schools		$21,950 00
Amount of State fund and one-half dog tax		532 09
Total appropriations		$22,482 09
Total amount of expenditures		21,828 73
Within the total appropriation		$653 36

REPORT OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

In compliance with your regulations, I respectfully submit my first annual report, which is also the third of the consecutive series of annual reports made by the Superintendents of the schools of Milford.

Your schools have nearly completed the work of another year; it is my present duty to record the results. The history of any year does not often differ materially from that of the preceding, except in those perfected changes which spring from steady growth and healthy development. The noblest growth of a State comes by a slow but constant development of all its resources. A comprehensive system of free schools, which is a main and essential element in the prosperity of the State, cannot form an exception to this law.

All our citizens are interested in learning how public money is expended and what results are sought from the expenditure. It is my purpose to show clearly to the town, which has so willingly furnished the means requisite for the support of the schools—our educational resources, the system under which our schools are managed, the work which they have accomplished during the year, the deficiencies and obstacles now lying in the path of progress, and the steps necessary to avoid these deficiencies and surmount these obstacles.

When I entered upon the duties of the Superintendent of Milford schools, in September last, all the teachers had been assigned, the promotion lists had been made, and were on file in this office, the schools had been fully organized, and one-third of the school year had passed. It was my first duty to inform myself thoroughly in regard to the wants and condition of each school. A single visit, however long, could not give the needed information. Schools must be visited on many different days, and at different hours, to observe the varied phases of their work. First impressions, though lasting, are not always just. In several instances I have been forced by subsequent visits to modify materially, or completely change, opinions which had been based on secondary evidence or previous visits.

The general heads of "*inspection*," which embraces instruction and "*examination*," include the most important duties of a Superintendent. An English writer says:

"By '*inspection*' is meant the process of seeing a school at work in the course of its ordinary routine; noting how it is instructed, warmed, ventilated, furnished and supplied with apparatus and materials; how its journals, registers and other records are kept; what is the course of education, physical, intellectual and moral, which it supplies to its scholars; whether it is conducted on the most approved system of economizing time and labor; what is the order of discipline; what the relations of the scholars are to the teachers and to each other; how the teachers give their lessons, and how, in all respects, they are qualified to perform, and do perform, their duties.

By '*examination*' is meant the testing, by written and oral questioning of the scholars, whether the results of instruction given the school are satisfactory."

While seeking to combine in my work the most essential things embraced under the above general heads, the duties of *inspection* have seemed the more important even to the present month. *Examination*, especially oral questioning, will be more searching and extended during the coming term.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

The schools of this town occupy two brick and eighteen wooden buildings. The care and expense of keeping twenty schoolhouses with their furniture, out-buildings, and inclosures in proper repair, must annually be great. If needed repairs are not made in due season, the schools often suffer, and the final expense is doubled. A committee having ample funds can in two or three years save hundreds, perhaps thousands, of dollars, by acting promptly on the weekly reports of the Superintendent.

I understand that several extensive but unexpected alterations and repairs were made early in the year. Many minor, and some important, ones are now necessary. The South Grammar, Park Grammar, North Grammar, Old Town House, Fountain street, and perhaps other buildings, should receive early attention.

A change of the partitions in the upper room at the Town House would give another good school room, and perhaps enable you to dispense with one teacher in some less populous neighborhood.

In all New England towns, great improvements have been made recently in the condition of the school buildings and grounds. Nearly all your school premises, with a few notable exceptions, have suitable out-buildings and are inclosed with substantial fences.

The first requisite of a good school is, in truth, a good teacher. Yet all parents recognize the helping influences of pleasant home-surroundings upon their children. A due regard for a healthy and pure culture of the children at school, demands that all the material circumstances of their education and sports should be clean, pleasant and salutary. The school yards, and not the streets or neigh-

boring premises, are the proper places for the children to enjoy rest and recreation during the recesses and intermissions. These grounds should be spacious, well-graded, enclosed with neat and strong fences and adorned with shade trees wherever these will not seriously interfere with the children's play. The South Grammar, the Park and the High School well illustrate these principles. The grounds of the North Grammar (Plains) school should be drained and enlarged; those of the Claflin, your finest school building, should be fenced.

SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION.

Thirteen Primary schools, *six* Grammar schools, with their *seventeen* different rooms, *eight* Mixed or District schools, *one* Evening school, and one High school, have been taught during the year. FORTY-TWO teachers have been employed each term.

Under the old system, I am informed that pupils of average ability remained in the Primary and Intermediate grades—both being now classed as Primary—from three to five years, then lingered in the Grammar schools from five to seven years, and then the survivors entered upon a High school course of four years. Last year's report states that "the dreadful slowness which prevailed in the methods of promotion has been removed." Under the present system, which was devised last year, the average primary pupils can reach the Grammar schools after four years of easy work, and the Grammar school children will be well prepared for the High school at the end of another four years.

Many children *can* complete the Primary course in two or three years; but, as a general rule, it will be the safer and wiser plan for the pupil to occupy all of the allotted time in accomplishing the work of the several grades.

In hundreds of Western towns and cities, and in scores of New England towns, the Grammar school course is well completed, according to the four years' plan which you have indorsed.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Before reporting upon the Primary, Grammar and High schools, I wish to consider some great hindrances to educational progress. *Irregular attendance*, next to poor teaching, is the greatest obstacle to the success of the schools in this State; these are often intimately connected as cause and effect. Over-crowded school rooms, especially for the Primary grades, are discouraging and ruinous in their effects upon teachers and pupils. These topics, except attendance, will be discussed under the head of "Primary Schools."

A Superintendent is expected "to exert his personal influence to secure general and regular attendance in the public schools." Hence it has been my aim, not merely to *bring* within, but also to *keep* within the school rooms, as many as possible of the children of Milford. Of necessity, there must be many instances of absence and lateness. Harsh and injudicious attempts to reduce these below a reasonable number, will drive needy and delicate children permanently out of school.

But, after making all proper allowances, no good reasons can be found for even one-half of the daily absence marks. No unusual sickness existing, *ten or fifteen* pupils have often been absent, even in pleasant weather, from a school of 50 or 60!

A few teachers do not grasp the connection between a good attendance and a good school. True, a good attendance may exist in a poor school. But I have never seen a good school where poor attendance was the rule and not the exception. Would that parents could see as clearly as our earnest teachers, how important it is for the children to form early a *habit* of promptness and regularity in the discharge of all their duties. The interest of a child in study can be maintained only by regular attendance. And in graded schools, where the large numbers assigned to each teacher require perfect classification, the inconstant scholar can make no satisfactory progress. If the inconstant scholar inflicted injury only on himself, this would be more tolerable and just.

But repeated absences not only demoralize the absentee, they exert a pernicious influence over the whole school. If the teacher delays a class of fifty pupils for the benefit of a half-dozen stay-a-ways, she unjustly bestows on the few, a measure of time and attention which belongs to the many. The discipline of the school becomes more difficult, perhaps harsher. Since unruly pupils, when unemployed, become restless and impatient of restraint. Should the absentees be left in a lower grade, then the teachers and school authorities are berated because "my child was not promoted." Membership in the public school imposes the same duties of prompt and regular attendance that are demanded at the office, store or shop.

The child, when well, should be sent to school regularly and promptly; he should be kept at home when sick, or whenever a wise parental judgment considers it proper.

As the financial bearing of an irregular school attendance affects the pockets of some citizens who may not be troubled by the educational effect, I will give in another part of this report,—since the annnual returns of the schools are not yet made up,—some statistics to show the expense which needless absence from school imposes on the town.

Lateness, Tardiness and absence are twin evils. Each produces the same idle and desultory habits. But, in nine cases out of ten, there is no excuse for lateness. To keep these marks for lateness within small numbers is largely in the power of the teachers, and the excellent results obtained in many of our schools are due to their wise and persistent efforts. Under favorable circumstances, I know no more reliable index to the skill and personal power of the teacher, than the attendance in her school. I am pleased to report that the marks for lateness are fewer than last year.

"If the bell upon the Town House should be rung fifteen minutes before the beginning of each session of school, thus establishing a uniform and known time, the cases of tardiness would be greatly lessened," has been previously suggested. I would repeat the suggestion.

Mr. Donahoe, the truant officer, has been prompt and faithful in the discharge of his duties. I do not know how he accomplishes so much in so little time and at so small an expense. He has returned some sixty-five truants to schools, and investigated many more cases of absence. It would be a good investment for the town to employ Mr. Donahoe, or some equally efficient officer, during one-half of each school-day, for several months of the year, especially in April, September and December. The simple fact that an energetic officer is known to be on daily duty, always has a wonderful effect in checking truancies and unnecessary absence. The value of such services in the prevention of juvenile vice and crime, cannot be reckoned up in dollars and cents.

SCHOOL CENSUS.

A recent Legislature has enacted that the School Committee shall annually in the month of May, take the NAMES and AGES of all persons between five and fifteen years of age, or cause them to be taken, belonging in any town or city on said first of May. The number of such persons, *not the names*, was formerly taken by the assessors.

The school census should be taken with great care, since the amount of money received from the State, and the educational rank of the town, depend largely upon its correctness. Blanks similar to those used by the enumerator should be furnished the principal of each school for recording the names and ages of all scholars registered in the schools on May first. A comparison of these two lists would show what children were not connected with the schools. The cases of all permanent absentees could be investigated. The experience of other towns has shown that a large amount of impending absence and truancy is prevented by this census.

EVENING SCHOOL.

The Evening school which was opened last year, was resumed this year in the same place and under the same teacher, Charles J. Thompson, Esq. Many came for a few of the first evenings to loaf, and spy out the land. Finding little time, from the strict discipline enforced, and from the studious habits of the majority of the pupils, for the "good time" they nightly seek in the street, they quietly dropped away.

It was an encouraging sight to witness the earnest application of those who after a long day in the store or workshop gladly devoted three or four evenings each week to study and mental improvement.

Our business men should encourage the attendance of their em-

ployes in this school. Having taught in an evening school for girls, I would suggest that an evening school exclusively for girls and young women, might be well attended.

Mr. Thompson's report is appended:

The Evening school, for which the town appropriated the sum of five hundred dollars, was opened Nov. 10. About sixty-five pupils presented themselves. They were formed into two divisions according to their attainments and choice of studies, and attend school on alternate evenings. Book-keeping—principally simple accounts—arithmetic, the writing of the common forms of business papers, and spelling, are taught in one division. Reading, writing, spelling and arithmetic are the studies in the other division. Except in reading and spelling, the class system is little used. On account of the unequal capacity of pupils, the difference in opportunity for study, and of acquirements, it is not easy to arrange them in classes. Pupils in book-keeping and arithmetic, put all their work on paper. This is examined by the teacher, corrected, criticised and made the subject of explanation or examination as to principles. The aim is to get pupils to think for themselves—to find out by their own work, rather than to be taught by explanations by the teacher. The teacher strives to set forth and make familiar, *principles* that can be applied to the solution of many questions, rather than to teach mere methods for the solving of special cases. Rules and methods are easily forgotten; but a principle understood and enforced by practice, becomes a part of one's permanent knowledge, and the foundation upon which to form rules as they are wanted.

All the pupils are occupied through the day in some labor. None attend the day schools. Most of them attend of their own accord, with a strong desire to extend their knowledge of those things that shall qualify them for the duties of manhood. Such pupils require only that a teacher shall guide, and occasionally assist in, their work. They make the most of the few hours in each week they have for study.

The number of pupils has declined from 65, the largest number, to forty odd. Some have left town; some left the school because they did not find it the place of amusement they expected it to be; and some because the distance they came was too great for constant attendance. The average attendance of each division has been from twenty to twenty-eight each evening. Almost all that manifested any interest in study at the beginning of the school are still attending. The ages of pupils vary from 14 to 24 years. The average age is about 17 years.

The fact that fifty young men gladly avail themselves of this opportunity to qualify themselves to perform the duties of good citizens in an intelligent manner, by giving three, or more, evenings of each week to study, after the day's toil, is a sufficient answer to any question as to the wisdom of maintaining such a school. Many of the youth have been unable to attend the common schools, except

at short times with long intervals between; others have neglected, through parents' injudicious indulgence, privileges they might have improved, and now see what they have lost, and are anxious to make up, to some extent, the loss. Such a school as this meets their needs.

It is a matter of regret that many more do not attend the school. There are many who need its instruction that might attend as well as those who do. There should be twice as many in the school as there have been. The teacher has induced a few to attend who would not have done so, but for his influence. People might do much good to the town by influencing young men to attend this school, who, without some outside influence, will not attend.

There are plenty young men on the street every night, imbibing ideas and influences that do not tend to make them good citizens, to fill a school room and furnish ample employment to an able teacher. If a part of them could be brought into the evening school, would not the result pay well for the small investment needed? Citizens wishing well for the future of our town, will do well by doing what they can to procure a full attendance at the evening school another season.

HIGH SCHOOL.

The higher institutions of learning have in all ages and in all countries been the source of popular education. "The influence of one grade of school upon another is mainly from above downward." We grant that only a small proportion of our pupils will ever reach the High School. Few persons know how great an effort is requisite to arouse the ambition of average pupils. But the very existence of an educational institution above them, whose doors stand wide open to admit all who are fit for entrance, may fire their hearts with enthusiastic hopes and earnest endeavor. The High School does not limit its advantages to race, sect, or station. Many a young man and young woman who now adorns the professional and business walks of life, would have been debarred the higher education, but for the wisdom of the fathers of this Commonwealth, who, two hundred and thirty years ago, planted in toil and trial the germ of the High School of to-day. It is the training ground for our teachers. Of the forty-three teachers now employed by your Board thirty-five are graduates of the High School. But it is unnecessary to expand these thoughts, as the important work and far-reaching influences of this school are finely appreciated by this community. The large classes admitted in the last two years have crowded the study rooms far more than a due regard for the health and comfort of the pupils should long endure. It is not expected that a numerous class will be admitted next June, but the classes must be large in the two next succeeding years. An enlargement of the High School building sufficient to meet the probable demands for the next ten years, can be effected at a comparatively small expense.

In my visits to the High School, I have always found the teachers and pupils engrossed in the duties of the hour. The rare devotion of the teachers to the work of instruction, must be crowned with success. In accordance with the idea expressed in the last report, it has been ordered by your Board that pupils in this school who do not maintain an average of at least fifty-five per cent. in their respective classes, must review their studies in the next lower grade. This standard was purposely made low. But, according to the reports of the teachers, the scholarship in the High School has improved greatly since even the above standard was adopted for promotion. Some statistics and extracts from Mr. Hale's report are here recorded.

"The average daily attendance for the Spring term was 121, for the Fall, 145, and for the Winter, 132. The per cent. of attendance for the year, 95.4. Number neither late nor absent for Winter term: 45 boys and 37 girls.

The High School has always had a high reputation for attendance, and this year is no exception, though the per cent. appears less, owing to the full effect of the last two years' mode of requiring the report, which method required in such cases as that of Master Walsh of the last Senior class, who left on account of consumption, that he be counted a pupil of the school for 70 days after he had left, and that of two others, one for 71½ days, and the other for 67 days after leaving school. Neither of the three were present for one day of the Spring term. The state report for this year says: "Every pupil shall be considered as belonging to the school from the time of his first entrance to the day of his last attendance for the term."

Another point: The conditions of admission to college have within a few years past been so changed as to quantity and thoroughness, that the Head Master of the Boston Latin school felt it necessary to explain the requirements to the alumni of that institution and the parents who send pupils. The class at the High school have needed and have had much care outside of session time, Miss Howard giving the class every school afternoon instruction in algebra, and the Principal correcting nearly every afternoon Greek or Latin sentences, which have been put upon the boards and which it was impossible to correct in session, and on Saturday giving instruction in Homer. Though this is gratuitous, it is none the less essential to the recipients. The course could be arranged much better for those preparing for college. It now requires several things not needed and omits some that are essential."

The following was the order of exercises at the graduation last June:

Education.....Arthur H. Ball
The Power of Habit.....Mary A. Gallen
Progress in Mechanics.....Fred. I. Bailey
The Chinese Question.....William H. Murray

Thought.....Ellen A. Devine
Metamorphosis of Insects.....Charles W. Loomis
Steps.....Jennie E. Dale
The Financial Question.....George W. Walker
National Monuments.....Thomas F. Kelly
The Face an Index of the Mind.....Ella A. Withington
Moral Example.....Charles H. Pond
The Presidency..... John A. Connolly
Purpose Not Genius.....Margaret Quinn
Influence.....Florence I. Goodspeed
Our Foreign Trade.....Henry C. Egan
Right and Wrong.....Nellie L. Taylor
The Age.....John P. Holmes
Lafayette.....Clifford A. Whittemore
Compensation.....Lilian Smith
Parting Hymn John A. Connolly

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

The six Grammar schools, including one at North Purchase and another at Hopedale, are taught by seventeen teachers. With great pleasure I report the general good management and good scholarship manifest in these rooms. A decided advance has been made in the year now closing. The examination papers are, as a rule, superior to those of the previous year in general appearance, quickness of expression, and in their correct and comprehensive answers to more difficult questions.

I do not find that all the No. 2 Grammar schools were last year "organized into one class and one grade," though they were, as a rule, forced into the upper room by the crowded lower rooms and other causes.

Hence it is not expected that nearly all of the pupils who were promoted to the Principals' rooms last June, will be fitted for the High school. By another year, the lower classes will come up more evenly prepared for promotion; and scholars of fair abilities and industrious habits can enter the High school without any "high pressure," after one year's study in the rooms of your experienced principals.

If the experience of this year shall show that the work assigned under the programme furnished you last year, cannot be well done in the first and second classes, then the course should be lengthened.

The High School course of study, at least in its early stages, should be closely interwoven with that of the Grammar schools; between these two grades, no deep, dark gulf should be fixed, over which, upon a temporary and shaky bridge, the trembling candidate must grope his way. The Grammar school graduate who, as his teacher and record declare, has fairly performed the work of the first class, and passed creditable examinations upon the same, should easily enter the High school.

To fit pupils for the High School is not the main purpose of the Grammar School. Its grandest work should be to give its pupils the elements of a sound, practical education. Those pupils who fail to complete a Grammar School course, solely because they do not purpose to enter the High School, deprive themselves of a grand opportunity. I do not assert that weakness and defects are not found in the instruction and management of some of the Grammar School rooms. None have a sharper eye for these things than your experienced Principals. The conferences between them and your Superintendent have been frequent and pleasant, yet sometimes discouraging. The principal hindrances to the highest standing of these schools are: the low standard of former years for the admission of scholars from the Primary schools; the advancement from class to class of pupils who are not fitted for promotion; the irregular attendance of many pupils; the crowding of 64 pupils into a single room, when, in my judgment, 50 should be the maximum number for any Grammar class, and 45 would be better; the rigidity of the classification; and the long interval of time between the classes; an almost total want of early training in "language," or in the oral and written expression of thoughts, such as may now be witnessed in the best Primary schools of the State; and, perhaps in rare instances, a want of power, preparation and interest for the work of teaching.

My limits will not admit of discussing the question, but for years I have favored a more flexible system of classification than prevails in the Grammar schools of most New England towns and cities. The promotions from class to class, should be made as often as twice each year; in St. Louis, they are made once a term. Says Supt. Harris: "The pupils that learn readily, are allowed to move forward as fast as their abilities permit. The slower ones are not allowed to keep back the more fortunate ones. By the old method, all those delayed through sickness, poverty, or inactive temperaments, either *fall back a whole year* (as they do in Milford), or else, in a vain endeavor to make up their deficiency, overwork themselves, or get discouraged. *Large classes of young pupils can not be kept together, even for one year, without loss to those who are held back, and injury to those who are unduly hurried.*" Dr. Harris also asserts that "the success of the St. Louis system has exceeded my most sanguine expectations."

I would urge your Board to examine the workings of the semi-annual system of promotion in the town of Waltham, which has a large manufacturing population, and adopt it in the THREE lower Grammar classes.

One or two subjects which are closely connected with the Primary schools, will be reported under that head, to avoid repetition.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

All educators declare that the earlier years of school life are most important for the mental and physical development of the

child. Improper habits of thought, expression and study, neglect or abuse of moral and physical culture, can never be overcome entirely.

"Scratch the green rind of a sapling, or wantonly twist it in the soil,
The scarred and crooked oak will tell of thee for centuries to come."

The subject of primary education is now the study of the ablest thinkers in Europe and in America. The Primary schools demand the best instruction and the most careful supervision; to them I have given more time and thought than any other grade. Your primary teachers have, as a class, shown a great desire to acquaint themselves with the most natural, and therefore the most successful, methods of management and instruction. Conscious that they do not "know all there is to be known about teaching," they seek and kindly receive criticisms and suggestions; more than this, they permanently embody them in their daily school work.

The desire for knowledge is one of the strongest emotions in the child's nature. It is as natural for children to learn as it is to breathe. "A child learns more in the first seven years of its life than it ever afterward can learn," was the remark of Hegel.

The spirit in which the school is managed and the personal relations of the teacher with the pupils, are important factors in the product of intellectual activity. The mind can not do its perfect work under the influence of diffidence, fear or galling repression. The teacher should first gain the confidence of the children and interest them in herself and their temporary home. Let the first lessons in school be presented in a varied and attractive manner, and the child will manifest the same intense interest, curiosity and "sacred thirst" for knowledge, which, though the rule in the household, *has been* the exception with school rooms. Every good and noble element in the training of a child within a well-ordered home, should be reproduced, as far as may be, in the instructions and recreations of a primary school. The children who are blessed with such training—physical, intellectual and moral—in the household, are blighted by its absence from the school room. Those who unfortunately have never known it in thoughtless and wretched homes, thrive most vigorously when the unwonted sunshine of watchful care and wisdom is shed lovingly upon them in the Primary school. The teacher who gives her youthful charges free swing for observation, perception, experiment and questioning, will be hourly astonished at the number and freshness of their ideas; these, it is the royal province of the true teacher to bring into proper relation, to teach her pupils to embody in clear thought and in simple but correct language, but not to reason upon.

The faculties of perception, memory and imagination are early developed; the reasoning powers ripen later. Therefore the child should, first of all, be carefully trained to a harmonious exercise of the senses. Tangible and visible objects impress the young pupil more strongly than audible illustrations. From these he derives

his simple ideas. The object of thought, or its most fitting representative, should *always* be in the presence of the child before he is called upon to express its name, quality or acts. Hence the Primary schools should be liberally supplied with familiar things, models, pictures, charts, slates, numeral blocks, counting tables and spacious blackboards. These will supply ample material for that instruction which must be largely objective and oral during the first four or five years of school life. In all grades, *but especially in the primary*, the text-book should be the *servant* of the teacher, not the *master*.

It is due the progressive teachers in your Primary schools that I should report a great improvement in the reading, writing, and in oral and written expression of thought.

Children can learn to write more readily than they can print. I have seen the writing of many a little primer scholar which reflected credit on both teacher and pupil. In many of the classes, the children commence to write in the Fall term.

Language Teaching. We learn to do things by doing them. The pupil must learn the correct use of language by *using it*, just as he learns to talk by talking, to walk, by walking, to sew, by sewing. Now the use of the script hand enables us to introduce sentence-writing, which includes *original* and dictated work, into the lowest primaries.

Starting with the little sentence of two or three words, and receiving an incidental direction for the use of a capital, and another for a period, as the child ascends the Primary and Grammar grades he, by the constant daily practice of expressing his thoughts, learns to apply the few simple principles which control the changes and inflections of the leading parts of speech, and which govern the position of capitals, and the more common marks of punctuation. Carefully guided, he soon acquires facility in weaving his own thoughts into correct and more extended English sentences. When he grapples with the technicalities of grammar as taught in the upper classes, he finds that what he meets as a *science* he has been applying as an *art*, all through his course; so with broader views and increased zest, he enlarges his field of thought and expression. The hours spent upon the examination papers of the Grammar schools clearly show that while an improvement is making in this work, the effect of pulling the language to pieces and never attempting its reconstruction, still lingers, even if the practice is unknown. Many pupils do not seem to have the power to construct three correct and connected sentences which shall clearly express in their own language some truth or occurrences with which they are perfectly familiar. A constant, thoughtful training of the primary children in oral and written expression of thought and action, is a fundamental necessity.

A Milford school report made ten years ago says: "In due time we hope to have our children enter the Grammar school, with

a full knowledge of the principles of simple numbers and great readiness of calculation, thus saving a year or more of school time; and this in perfect harmony with the laws of health and mind." I also hope for this "consummation devoutly to be wished." Concrete arithmetical questions of a simple and practical character, have been introduced in all the grades. A little of this work was done with the younger classes, but it was mainly deferred to the Grammar grades. This inverted the true order of nature. The child always works from the known to the unknown, from the concrete to the abstract. Drill in abstract numbers should form a very small part, *possibly none at all*, of the first year's work in the primary school. The teacher should not pass beyond the numbers, 9 or 12.

In all classes, especially in the higher, promptness and accuracy in the fundamental combinations and processes must be secured. More work in number was attempted last year in some of the primaries than could be well done. A few of the first classes took up both short and long division. I lessened the work, and shall expect good results in notation, numeration, addition, subtraction, and in the various cases of multiplication. A text book is needed in this class. The teachers should be held responsible for the attainments of the children in certain designated topics; then the Grammar schools should continue the work, and not spend most of the year in going over *with* a text book, what the Primary teachers taught *without*.

READING.

I was surprised to find that the word, or sentence, method of teaching reading was not in use in all your Primary schools. The old method of teaching reading was discarded in New Bedford in 1866. I have not tolerated its use for several years. Some of your teachers long ago abandoned it.

Firmly convinced that the sentence method of teaching reading was most natural and profitable for the pupils, I have insisted upon its general use. But this is only one of the helps to good reading. First of all, the child must be taught to recognize the word, as the symbol of an idea or thought, which has been, if possible, drawn from his own mind. After a very few words have been mastered, and can be called at sight as readily as can the name of the pet bird, cat or dog of the home, the reading may begin. No, it must be preceded by a lively conversation with the pupils, not a talk to them. Knowledge is imparted so skilfully as to excite in the children the most eager curiosity and interest in what the board—all the work for thé first few weeks is done at the board—or "the book says." The reading should then begin, and be made by the wise teacher, through explanations and questions, a continuation of the conversation which preceded it. The children will read naturally—the old-time Primary school hitch and drawl, and drawl and hitch will not appear.

They read well because they understand what they read, and

never being allowed to read a single word which they do not know, or a sentence which they do not understand, they read with wonderful interest and expression.

The reading lesson should be preceded with much written work on the blackboard and slate by teacher and pupil,—thus forming a blended exercise in mental development, oral and written expression, spelling, writing and English composition. The essential features of this method are well illustrated in some of your lower Primary grades, and should be found in all the Primary classes.

This is the German-Cleveland-Dayton-Quincy-common-sense system. In the last-mentioned place, poor reading is almost unknown, and the writing even of the primer grades is excellent.

Three favorable conditions are essential to the complete success of this system; 1st, energetic, progressive, experienced teachers; 2d, small and carefully graded classes with only 25 to 45 pupils in a room, under the care of veteran teachers who are aided by "pupil" teachers; 3d, an abundant supply of nicely graded reading which is adapted to the mental development of a given class. Under the system which has generally prevailed, two ltttle books—a primer and a second reader—have been kept before the children's eyes for two or three years. I have had children read, or rather recite, to me very glibly, what the teachers declared they had never read, from the book held before their eyes or behind their backs. The whole book had been learned by heart, likely enough before a word of it was read in the class.

Teachers hoping to escape such a miserable waste of time and such mental stagnation, have placed their pupils in higher books. Instead of this unwise course, the primer classes should read five or six books of the primer grade and the second and third reader classes should have an equally abundant supply. These books can be read in less time than is now spent in droning over a single book in each grade. The plan is not very expensive, as the books can be purchased for towns at greatly reduced rates, and the corresponding classes in the different schools can exchange books with each other. It may not be amiss to state that I have tested the plan at my own expense in some of your Primary classes.

If your Board could see as I have seen, the delight with which new books are seized by pupils and teachers, the eagerness with which the thoughts are grasped, and the impulse which is thus given to a class, you would decide that in no other direction will the investment of forty or fifty dollars a term, bring so prompt and large educational returns.

When I entered your primary schools, last Fall, I felt that the tremendous pressure of numbers in the lower grades formed an almost insuperable obstacle to the right training of the little ones. I often found from 60 to 75 pupils in daily attendance at several primary rooms. The registered number ranged from 70 to 90 pupils. Common-sense, as well as the science of teaching, declares that the

true teacher is known by the thoughtfulness and care with which she regards the varied needs of her pupils, and the fidelity and success with which she fosters personal characteristics and individualizes her instructions. Such care and such teaching is especially important with young children. How is a teacher to *individualize*, when from 60 to 80 little restless spirits, in more restless bodies, are all "to be controlled, guided, occupied and taught by herself alone? Individualize? The thing is impossible. It is cruel to ask it; it is foolish to expect it."

A superior teacher can do admirable general work with 50 or 60 scholars, nicely graded. But our schools are not nicely graded, and superior teachers do not abound. Under unfavorable conditions, it is a wonder that so many teachers accomplish so much in the lower grades. Is it surprising that a few, having no innate fitness, or acquired love, for their calling, should fail under the overwhelming load of distasteful daily duty?

PUPIL TEACHERS.

I would recommend that the Chairman of your Board, the Principal of the High School and the Superintendent, be empowered to select from the recent graduates of the High School, and from the Senior class, after Christmas of each year, thoughtful young women who wish to become teachers and who will spend some days of each month, without pay, in schools designated by the Superintendent for observing the methods of government and instruction, and also in teaching under the guidance of experienced teachers. In this way our overworked Primary teachers could receive much needed assistance, while the young women would be learning the work of the schools. This plan would strike from the list of applicants for teachers' places many who, soon feeling their want of fitness for the profession, would seek some other equally honorable field of usefulness. That all cannot succeed in the same line, involves no disgrace. It would be my desire to meet the pupil teachers once or twice each week, to hear their reports, and discuss with them the theory and art of teaching.

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS.

The primary schools of the State have, until recently, been the chosen field for the untrained teacher. After she had acquired some skill in management and shown considerable aptitude for teaching, she was transferred to a Grammar school and given a higher salary. Then the fifty or seventy-five little innocents anxiously awaited the coming of a new experimenter. One would think this plan had been expressly devised to waste the public money and stultify the children. Away with the wasteful and cruel notion that anybody can teach these little ones!

A mature and cultivated understanding, a fertile imagination, a wealth of resources, a kindly appreciation of the feeblest efforts of her little charges, a tender sympathy in their wants and trials, a devoted, untiring industry—in a word, all that is strong, refined, noble and true in woman, must combine in the successful teacher of the formerly despised primary school.

Therefore I would most respectfully urge your Board in future appointments of teachers that inexperienced persons should not be allotted to the lower Primary grades, but that the "lambs of the flock" should be intrusted to teachers of winning ways and successful experience. Under this plan, the best schools in Scotland and Prussia are conducted; under this plan, the most successful church schools of the followers of Loyola were founded in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. California, whose schools, like its people, are cosmopolitan and combine the best educational products of the civilized world, provides by law, that "beginners shall be taught for the first two years by teachers who have had *at least four years experience*, and such teachers shall rank in point of salary with those of the first (the highest Grammar) grade."

Superintendent Parker, whose five years of autocratical, active and wise supervision have made his three lower grades exceptionally excellent, has insisted upon these conditions: that the schools should be nicely graded; that only a few pupils—from 30 to 44 are found in his rooms—should be assigned to each teacher; that the best teachers of the town should have the lowest primaries, and receive the highest salaries.

The city of Boston, by a report made within the last month, has entered upon the "new departure." Under adverse circumstances, your teachers also have set forth. Some of your younger teachers are showing rare powers of management. During the last year or two they have been rapidly becoming "good teachers."

Many a competent teacher has been unwilling to take, or remain in, a primary class, because of the false notion that her professional rank must of necessity correspond with the grade in which she is found. The scale of teachers' salaries has often been adjusted to the equally false notion that "anybody can keep a Primary school."

I would recommend that the salary of approved principals of Primary schools shall be the same as Grammar school assistants, and that the salaries of both these classes of teachers shall be based on experience and success in teaching. Under this rule some Grammar school teachers willingly would do better work in the Primary grades, and some primary teachers would do better work in the Grammar grades.

Some persons can never become teachers, I have seen them tried year after year, under changed and favoring circumstances. But the failure was annually more pitiful. We "change the place but keep the pain." No unjust criticism should be heaped upon school authorities who, after years of trial, will not retain or employ incompetent teachers. Our schools should be conducted like all other departments of town affairs, on sound and just business principles.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Six of your schools are composed of Primary and Grammar classes, and can be appropriately called "Mixed Schools." Two others, the Fountain street and North Purchase Primaries, contain all the Primary classes and the Fourth Grammar grade. These schools should not be so closely graded as the central schools. Classes should be consolidated only when it is profitable. The scholars should be spurred to emulation, and to progress, regardless of class lines. Permanent teachers and thorough instruction are the essential things for the Mixed schools. These schools differ widely in attainments and merit. The two which rank highest have had for years the same teachers. Frequent short visits to these schools have seemed to incite and encourage both teachers and pupils. When pupils can be placed in good schools at no great distance from home and carried to them, or paid for going, and even then saving money for the town, should time, money and brains be squandered in maintaining small ungraded schools?

COUNTY TRUANT SCHOOL.

The town of Millbury desires to unite with Milford and other towns in establishing a "Truant School," under the following law of 1873:

"When three or more cities or towns in any county shall so require, the County Commissioners shall establish at convenient places therein, other than the jail or house of correction, at the expense of the county, truant schools for the confinement, discipline and instruction of minor children convicted under the provisions of this act, and shall make suitable provisions for the government and control of said school, and for appointment of proper teachers and officers thereof."

In my opinion it is not best to aid in establishing this school, *at present*, but to open in Milford

AN UNGRADED SCHOOL.

All our large graded schools contain many pupils who cannot, or will not, make the best use of their time in their respective classes. By sickness, by work, by parental carelessness, or cupidity, and from stern necessity, they lose whole months, and even terms, of schooling. They are in advance of one grade, but far below the next higher. These pupils drag along during two or three years, in the same grade and in the same studies. Many of them are eager to learn; others are shirks and truants, and include four-fifths of the "troublesome" element in our schools. I believe in the system of graded schools for six boys out of every seven. What shall we do for the seventh boy? I would place him in an ungraded school and "work him to the extent of his ability." Such a school should be entirely distinct from our other schools. It should be taught by teachers of unquestioned power and success, so that the suspicion of being inferior in any degree to the best of our Grammar schools, should never attach to it. Such a school would fully relieve the other schools, and, perhaps, enable you to dispense with some other school in the Winter.

HEATING, VENTILATION AND HEALTH.

The present methods of heating many school buildings are very inadequate, expensive and unhealthy. The last place to save money is in the purchase of cheap stoves for a small school-room in which from forty-five to seventy-five children are packed. Good modern stoves will pay for themselves in two or three years. The Magee stove recently placed in a South Grammar room, burns only about half as much coal as its next neighbor. The High School is now heated by an excellent furnace.

I have often found school rooms "as cold as a barn." Sometimes the heating apparatus was at fault; at others, the janitor had failed to notice the temperature of the room. Thermometers are placed in every school room, and should be often consulted, as I have found teachers serenely seated near a stove with the heat completely deadened, when the thermometer, in not the coldest part of the room, indicated only 50 degrees.

I do not know of a single school room which has any effective means for ventilation, other than the windows and doors, which, in the Summer months, may safely supply pure air. But in the study hours of Winter, these doors and windows must be closed. They should be opened, except in the severest storms and weather, at recess and during the short physical exercises and marchings which should occur four or five times daily in the Primary and lower Grammar grades. The insufficient heating apparatus of some schools compels closed windows and doors at all times. If the windows are opened more than a finger's width, active currents may beat down upon the heads and necks of the children. Many complaints have recently been made about this injudicious practice. We shall never know how much the unequally warmed, improperly ventilated and crowded school rooms have affected the rise and spread of disease. The past cannot be recalled; the future can be guarded at some points.

CHANGES IN TEXT BOOKS.

When the Fall term opened, I found that my predecessor had arranged to introduce the Intermediate Reader into the 3d Grammar classes instead of the Fifth Reader, and to place the Language Primer in the 4th Grade instead of the Language Lessons. Your Committee were also considering the Writing Book and Spelling questions. In October, you introduced a less costly but more comprehensive system of writing; in January, you selected the Franklin Speller. As none of these changes were at my instance, I can say they were wisely made. I am always slow to change a text-book; but I must report that the disuse of a good, well-graded Speller in your schools was attended with grave evils, to remedy which required too much of the ablest teachers' time and thought. I am old-fashioned enough to believe that *one* good, printed spelling ~~good~~ properly used, is better than *thirty* which have been hurriedly written or extemporized by as many different teachers,

book

DISCIPLINE.

Without established order neither literary nor moral excellence can prevail in the school room. Teachers "are monarchs within certain limitations." Good order has been secured generally in your schools without harshness and severity. In only a few instances has a teacher deemed it necessary to resort to the extreme limits of authority. To govern wisely a class of boys and girls, many of whom are home-rulers, will test to the utmost the rarest powers of body and mind, will demand a multitude of motives and means, *the last of which* is corporal punishment. Those teachers who have gone through a year without corporal punishment, possess the rare faculty of *leading* children to prompt and willing obedience. While I most earnestly wish this number might increase till it includes the whole corps of teachers, and while I believe that cases of corporal punishment should diminish as the schools improve, I must acknowledge that frequent occasions now present themselves when reckless and persistent transgressors of school duties and school decencies should receive summary treatment. Therefore I do not think it expedient, under the existing management of the family and of the State, to say there shall be no corporal punishment in the schools. But I would discountenance it in every possible way. Teachers will be required to record all cases of corporal punishment, with the degree of the offence, and with the degree and date of the infliction.

Material Wants.—Many schools are almost entirely destitute of maps and globes. The High School needs reference books. The Primary schools should have counting tables, color blocks, the material for object teaching, and ruled slates for writing. Some of these things the children will buy. The law contemplates that a portion of the school fund received from the State, shall be expended in apparatus and other illustrative material.

Parental Help.—It is not enough to build school houses, to employ competent teachers, and to freely supply them with all the school appliances; there should be great co-operation and sympathy between parents and teachers. Home discipline and visits to the school-room will remove many misunderstandings, and incite pupil and teacher alike to more ardent efforts. Your teachers have been desired to inform parents by letter, or personal visits, about the poor scholarship or bad deportment of the children; this has been done in scores of instances. The scholars will also have reports to carry home, one for the Winter, and three or four for the Spring, or closing term.

Changes of Teachers. Numerous resignations and transfers of teachers occurred in the Summer, of which I have no record. During the Fall term, the teacher of the Deerbrook school, Miss Flora N. Knowlton resigned, and Miss Eva Cook was assigned to the school. This is the only new appointment since September.

Extent of Education. Statistics show that nearly fifty per cent. of the children finish their school life during the first six years of the course; that is, they rarely pass beyond the Fourth Grammar class. The time is brief, the work urgent for these. If they leave our schools without even the poor ability to read, write and cipher, without instruction in good manners, "without an awakened and more sensitive moral sense," we have failed in our duty to them. Therefore, each year's work in the Grammar and in the High schools should be so planned that the pupil, at whatever stage in his studies he may leave his school, shall have secured that amount of knowledge and training which will enable him to supplement the rudiments of an education by knowledge subsequently acquired, and best qualify him for his present work in life.

School Economy. Having good schools, we should aim to make them better. If there are defects in our schools, it is not because the schools of "the olden time" are better than the new, but because the schools of to-day are not good enough for the present. To maintain the fair standing which our schools occupy, requires a large annual outlay of money. The strength of a nation, and its increase in material wealth and prosperity, depend largely on the character and scope of its public schools. Then let contributions to their support and wider usefulness, continue to be just and generous.

Personal. It was my desire to spend all the school hours in the schools, but the daily and hourly calls upon my time from a variety of matters outside of the school room but connected therewith, have prevented; yet all available time has been passed there. I may seem to have criticised freely, but not to destroy; for no other person has had better evidence of the grand work of re-organization and reform which has been going on in your schools during the recent years. I have given you my candid opinions of present wants and future needs.

Moral Training.—Knowledge alone will not induce industrious habits and virtuous principles. To inspire our children with the love of truth, honesty, purity and all that inheres in real morality or vital religion, is a parental duty. Parents and teachers must combine physical, intellectual and moral training. But by what means the intellectual work of the schools shall be so permeated with moral training as to influence most stronlgy the conduct of life, remains the question of the hour.

In closing this report, I must express gratitude for my hearty reception by the teachers of Milford, and delight for the freedom and frequency with which they have consulted with me, and for the general readiness and earnestness with which they have sought to carry out my suggestions.

Thoroughly appreciating the full confidence and support with

which you, gentlemen of the Committee, have honored me, I have devoted all my time, strength and study to the effort to perform faithfully the duties of this office.

JOHN W. ALLARD,
Superintendent of Schools.

Milford, February 13, 1880.

Note.—The usual statistics are printed on a separate slip of two pages and inserted in this report.